

EXHIBITED

Sept-Oct, 2007 Double Happiness Projects / Chinatown - Los Angeles, CA

Stardust

2006 - 2007

At base, the work in Stardust reflects an omnipresent media cycle that endlessly reproduces its own both voyeuristic and simulated / stylized images.

Stardust - a reproduced / appropriated phrase in itself: a rock-n-roll singer's alias, the name of a movie, a drug euphemism, a phrase of song lyrics, the title of a book, a NASA project. Here- for me- the bits and pieces left behind by the media trail of celebrity.

The idea of celebrity is engaging. How it is globally revered, commented on, opined on, dissected, scoffed at, wanted, hated, bought, sold, judged, digested.

Specific inspiration for this work exists someplace in between paparazzi camera attacks, glossy, fictionalized, beautified, perfectly stylized worlds created in a fashion / home magazines, photos taken of friends and family, songs and images from the news- tv / web / paper.

The process of beginning each piece is methodical. I go through hundreds of collected media images and personal photographs and pull out the ones that

seem to be the most provocative and work together visually or thematically for an individual work. After determining the source photo(s), I lift out only the essential information by either tracing lines onto transparencies and then using an overhead projector to determine the composition of the painting, or by transferring traced lines using a charcoal / graphite rub. I like the immediacy of this process, as well as to the illustrative, reductive, definitive, flat qualities that emerge. Once the basic framework has been worked out, I refine the lines, and creating the remainder of the piece becomes a responsive and intuitive process.

I am interested in what happens when disparate imagery is combined - the intersection of a celebrity magazine photo shoot with a hybrid landscape of a Basra oil field. A fashion model working a shoot with her baby in tow, fronting images from the media coverage of L.A.'s Griffith Park brush fires. For me, these combinations seem very natural, but I am happy when there is ambiguity or a multiplicity of possible interpretations of meaning.

Everyone has some type of visceral response to the super-saturated medialandscape in which we find ourselves as a culture. I think this commonality encourages accessibility to the work - which I like and encourage. I hope the work inspires discussion or musings or questions about the context from which it was made. I hope for this work to be oddly familiar, amusing, and satisfying.

-Kim West, Los Angeles, CA 2007

For the stardust exhibition, LA musician/composer Jess Stroup was given a list of songs from which titles for the work was taken. Jess then composed re-mixes based on those that inspired him. Jess's mix looped throughout the exhibition. The mix can be downloaded from the homepage at kimwest.com, or via myspace.com/jessstrouppcomposer.

PAINTINGS 

DRAWINGS 

Stardust :: Butterflies and Zebras, Moonbeams, Fairytales (Scarlett Johanson) :: 2007

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ●

acrylic, household enamel & polycrylic, graphite, Sharpie, Chinese marker, pins, gouache on canvas / 60" x 72"



Stardust :: Holding Out For That Teenage Feeling (Justin Timberlake, Cameron Diaz) :: 2007

acrylic, household enamel & polycrylic, Sharpie,
silver leaf, gouache on canvas / 41" x 52"

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ●



Stardust :: If Only You Believed Like I Believe (Paz de la Huerta / actress-fashion muse; friend) :: 2007

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

acrylic, gouache, watercolor, Sharpie,
Chinese marker, graphite, sequins, pins,
polycrylic on canvas / 36" x 48"



Stardust :: My Biggest Bubble Has Not Burst Just Yet (Natalia Vodianova / fashion model with her child) :: 2007

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

acrylic, household enamel &
polycrylic, graphite, Chinese marker,
Sharpie, 24k gold leaf / 60" x 48"



Stardust :: The Moment Could Be Lost Forever (Angelina Jolie, Her Tattoo) :: 2007

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

gouache, graphite, Sharpie, sequin, pin,
embroidery thread on canvas / 11" x 14"



Stardust :: You Can Take a Trip Around the World Without Ever Leaving Your Easy Chair
(Jude Law, Sadie Frost and their children) :: 2006

Sharpie, acrylic, glitter
on glass / 12" x 14"

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



Stardust :: Passion Was Always In Fashion (Tom Cruise, Katie Holmes) :: 2007

Ink, prisma-color, graphite on paper / 14" x 12"

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



Stardust :: Swimming Pools, Movie Stars (Kate Moss, friends) :: 2007

graphite, ink, watercolor, staples on paper / 22" x 32"

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



Stardust :: I Got No Worries, I Don't Know Why (Eva Herzigova, anonymous fashion models; friend) :: 2007

Ink, graphite, gouache, watercolor,
marker on paper / 26.5" x 42"

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ●



Stardust :: The Pursuit of Happiness Just Seems A Bore (anonymous fashion model with child; Angelina Jolie) :: 2007

Ink, graphite, watercolor,
iridescence, sequin, pin on
paper / 12.25" x 20.25"

PAINTINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● DRAWINGS ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●



