

Ronald Feldman Fine Arts

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AMERI©AN DRE@M: A SURVEY

FEBRUARY 22 - APRIL 5

Business is great. Life is beautiful. I feel great. Smile.
Los Angeles Billboard

Ameri©an Dre@m: A Survey is a large-scale exhibition of more than fifty artists at the Feldman Gallery and a nearby location. The exhibition includes established and less recognized artists whose work unfolds against the unique background of current American culture. The exhibition includes painting, sculpture, installation, photography, film, video and the Internet, reflecting the variety of tools available to contemporary artists.

The American Dream, one of the most familiar and resonant phrases in our national lexicon, has mirrored and shaped American identity from the Pilgrims to the present, encompassing the idealism of a formative democracy and the seduction of twentieth century mass culture. The forces helping to shape our personal versions of the American Dream include race, money, labor, intelligence, stupidity, sex, high/low culture, luck, the most powerful military establishment on earth, generations of voluntary and involuntary immigration, the documentary protections of an elegant 18th century constitution with its amended refinements, and over 200 years of push-me-pull-you politics, to name a few.

The artists selected build their practices by speculating and creating in that space between the American Dream and the American reality. They scan the physical and cultural landscape of the United States, responding to what they see, reverently and irreverently, while at the same time keeping in mind the good, as well as the vile and imperfect past, which has established precedence for their creations.

Consider this exhibition as sited in the heart of that fertile and contested patch of real estate known as the good and the bad, the real and the unreal, or the present and the future -- more simply referred to as The United States of America. How much have the boundaries changed between the culture and the counter-culture?

Embracing diverse stylistic trends, the exhibition brings together a group of socially engaged artists who critique the common heritage that has molded them. The exhibition asks what is it about this work that looks uniquely American and what exactly does the American Dream look like when it is realized?

There will be an opening reception at the two locations on Saturday, February 22, from 6:00 – 8:00. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 to 6:00. Monday by appointment. For more information contact Laura Muggeo at (212) 226-3232 or laura@feldmangallery.com.