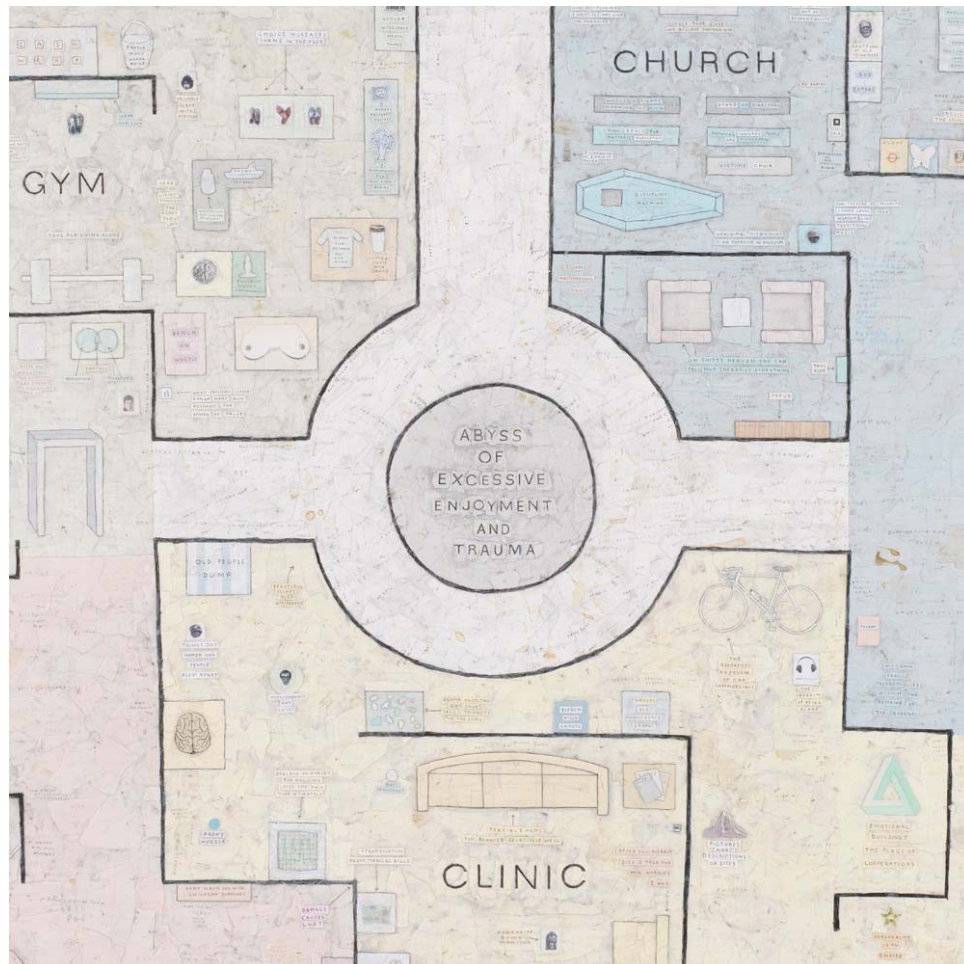


PRESS RELEASE



SIMON EVANS, *Shitty Heaven* (detail), 2010, tape, paper and felt tip pen on paper, 56 3/4 x 51 1/8 inches

SIMON EVANS: *SHITTY HEAVEN*

May 12th – June 11th, 2011

James Cohan Gallery is pleased to present *Shitty Heaven*, our second solo exhibition by Simon Evans, opening May 13th and running through June 11th, 2011. Evans meticulously assembles prosaic materials, such as scraps of paper, scotch tape, pencil shavings and correction fluid into diagrams, maps, flowcharts and diary entries that obsessively catalogue the fragments of a life. In 15 new text-based drawings, weavings and embroideries, the artist shares his confessional, idiosyncratic and wickedly humorous observations.

The exhibition's title work, *Shitty Heaven*, envisions the otherworld as a planned suburban community, complete with its Gym, Clinic, Gallery and Church. At the center of this floor plan is the "Abyss of Excessive Enjoyment and Trauma," anchoring a dystopic heaven where "things just happen and people blow apart," "comfortable places are overrun with rats and escaped

slaves” and “you can tell your therapist everything.” The Bedroom is home to “freedom from night which is not to imply death,” while Indoor Shopping is fraught with “unease” and “dead relatives live through the money they have left” in the Gym.

A series of drawings of handwritten text radiating outward to repeat the title words *The Hand*, *Positive Outcomes* and *The Voice* marks a new exploration for the artist. Painstakingly crafted, these works function as a *yantra* or visual energy diagram traditionally used to direct focus during meditation or occult rituals. Evans’ first tapestry work, *Letter to the Future*, replicates the appearance of handwriting on a sheet of legal paper with carefully stitched words addressed to the Future, describing a past when “they had blunt tools and everyone was lazy,” and signed from William Shakespeare.

In other works on view, Evans attempts to map out the nine circles of Hell in *Lite Evil*; create a master chart sorting out all the people he knows in *Everyone*; aggregate a lexicon of universal icons in *Vocabulary*; and diagram out his own tongue-in-cheek version of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs in *Survival*.

Simon Evans’ work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Galeria Fortes-Vilaça, São Paulo; the Aspen Art Museum, Aspen; Jack Hanley Gallery, San Francisco and White Columns, New York. Evans has also been featured in important international group exhibitions, including *Ground Level: Hayward Touring Curatorial Open 2010-11*, London (2010); *The World is Yours*, Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, Humlebaek (2009); *31º Panorama da Arte Brasileira*, Museu de Arte Moderna de São Paulo, São Paulo (2009); *British Subjects: Identity and Self-Fashioning 1967–2009*, Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase (2009); *Learn to Read*, Tate Modern, London (2007); *Whenever It Starts It Is The Right Time*, Frankfurter Kunstverein, Frankfurt (2007); *All About Laughter: Humor in Contemporary Art*, Mori Art Museum, Tokyo (2007) and the *27th São Paulo Biennial*, São Paulo (2006). Simon Evans currently lives and works in Berlin.

For further information, please contact Jane Cohan at jane@jamescohan.com or 212-714-9500. To view selected works and read press articles, please visit the artist’s page at www.jamescohan.com/artists/simon-evans/