

## TAXIDERMY WOODLAND ANIMALS DIPPED IN PAINT AND SPRINKLED IN GLITTER? YES, SEE THIS EXHIBIT

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This weekend, Mike Weiss Gallery is presenting *New Material*, artist Kim Dorland's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Comprised of watercolors, assemblage on paper and taxidermy animals like a paint splattered caribou head (left), *New Material* visually articulates Dorland's upbringing in rural Canada (clearly, Dorland's childhood wasn't exactly run-of-the-mill).

In both the Caribou sculpture and Ghost (Deer), you can see that Dorland had a complex relationship with the Canadian woods when he was a boy.

His taxidermy figures are dipped in paint and sprinkled in glitter which diffuses any predatory quality that these animals might otherwise have had. Consequently, Dorland's work simultaneously intimidates and lures viewers his fantastical, nightmarish forest.

Here, gallery owner Mike Weiss talks about why he digs Dorland.

**ELLE.com:** What did you find so compelling about Dorland that you decided to grant him his first solo exhibition at your gallery?

**MW:** He definitely pushes the limits of painting physically in his use of paint, glitter, wood, string and screws. It is his most ambitious work to date. Through his exploration of material surfaces, Dorland gives you the feeling that the images will jump out of the work and become real phantasmagoric creatures!

**ELLE.com:** How would you describe Dorland as an artist?

**MW:** This guy is a Bad Ass!

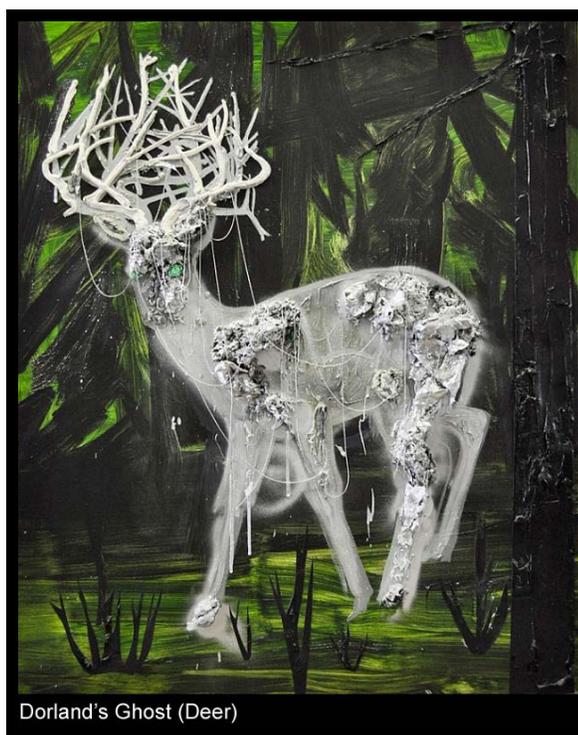
**ELLE.com:** What are your favorites?

**MW:** First of all there are over 60 pieces in this exhibition, which for any dealer could be somewhat daunting. We had two tractor trailers of Dorland's works. But, if I had to choose a piece it would be "Shack," which weighs over 400 pounds and is one of the largest pieces in the exhibition! A second, I would have to say is a sculpture called "Lavender Wolf," which is taxidermy that feels like it has been dipped and dunked in gallons of Lavender oil paint and covered with three-inch screws and string.

**ELLE.com:** Can you tell me which other emerging artists that you have your eye on now?

**MW:** Just recently I picked up the 24 year old Brooklyn artist, Trudy Benson. Trudy, like Dorland uses thick paint, but she abstractly creates a visual, lyrical theatre. Another new artist for the gallery is the Canadian artist Marc Seguin who uses charcoal, human ash and oil paints. His show opening in April 2011 and will include giant church paintings that give you an enveloping sense of transcendence.

**ELLE.com:** What qualities did you look for in new artists?



**MW:** I look for an artist that has real substance in their work; someone who can open up a door wide enough that the whole world can seemingly fit inside. I need the work to be intellectual and visceral, where it gets me in the gut and consumes me.

Dorland's exhibition is on view from November 6 through January 8, 2011.