

galerie  
Les filles  
du calvaire

**ETHAN MURROW**  
POLLEN SONG

Opening on Samedi 6<sup>th</sup> september 2021 (2<sup>pm</sup>-8<sup>pm</sup>)  
Exhibition from 4<sup>th</sup> september to 23<sup>rd</sup> october 2021

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Les filles du calvaire are pleased to announce *Pollen Song*, the first solo exhibition of American artist Ethan Murrow at the gallery. With virtuosity, he creates theatrical and extraordinary stories on paper, exploiting changes of scale to create striking perspectives. Detailed and surprising, his works feature hybrid characters, half human half plant, whose attitudes combine adventure, derision, pleasure and sometimes defeat.

For this exhibition the artist has produced a set of exceptional works that invites to a meditation about nature. In black and white or in color, they are displayed *in situ*, including a large composition on the walls of the gallery. It is by delving into memories of his childhood at his parents' farm in rural Vermont that Murrow composed his drawings, so close to nature in which the character melts. This nature is abounding, and they try to tame it by technique, patience or cunning. Their efforts, probably in vain, bear witness to their optimistic commitment.

"Growing up on a farm deep in the hills of rural Vermont I would always thirst for summer. I loved the deep bake of the heat after a dousing rain, when the buzz of bees and the whir and chirp of insects and birds formed a constant harmony. These sounds were especially tempting because they foretold an oncoming bounty from the garden. Admittedly, I may have been listening to these natural arias as I napped and avoided my mother's demands to weed her previously noted amazing and vast vegetable patch. Now I see how lucky I was to grow up in a place, in a moment, in a family that invested so much into the land, whether it was logging, animal husbandry or growing fruits and vegetables. My own urban life now means I consider these memories with a sweet sharpness and nostalgia. I recognize that we are in an urgent collective struggle to partner with nature, to preserve, maintain and heal the land that gives us so much.

These drawings arise from longing and loss for a mythical ecological past. I learned quickly through trial and error on the farm that any natural bounty involves so much more than my childhood rosy view. It arises from things like struggle, hard work, passion, luck, innovation, persistence and privilege.

The characters in these drawings are mid-struggle, trying to figure out their own relationship with the earth. They are engaged in somewhat absurd and epic tasks, seeking out rare ingredients in the sky, tending to bees above a valley, calling out to clouds for rain and climbing ladders to imagined gardens and Edens that may only exist in their minds. I often position my narratives as self-portraits and these works are no different, I am the protagonist here, who is dreaming of a flowing market basket and may have missed the warning signs right in front of my face. Yet the optimist in me sees these individuals as essential, despite the fact that they may be occasionally misinformed. Each of them believes so wholeheartedly in their goals that I want to believe they may actually be able to bring a soothing rain from the sky. If we all get down in the soil and sniff and listen we would probably be better off. The humans in my drawings are more than willing to try anything, to believe in magic, to talk to bees, to coo a lullaby to a plant in need of nutrients and laugh with unadulterated joy when a berry is at it's juiciest. I admire their enthusiasm and pleasure in their own pursuits amongst the natural world. Maybe their giddy enthusiasm for all things that contribute to life cycles will rub off on me and others and help us collaborate with the earth more and more."

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## AVAILABLE FOR PRESS



Ethan Murrow  
*Chanter Highflow*, 2021  
Acrylic on board  
120 x 120 cm

Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris



Ethan Murrow  
*Marathon*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
91 x 91 cm

Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris



Ethan Murrow  
*The Gleaner*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
91 x 91 cm

Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris



Ethan Murrow  
*Flora Boundary*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
178 x 122 cm

Courtesy  
Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris



Ethan Murrow  
*Pollen Song*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
121 x 91 cm

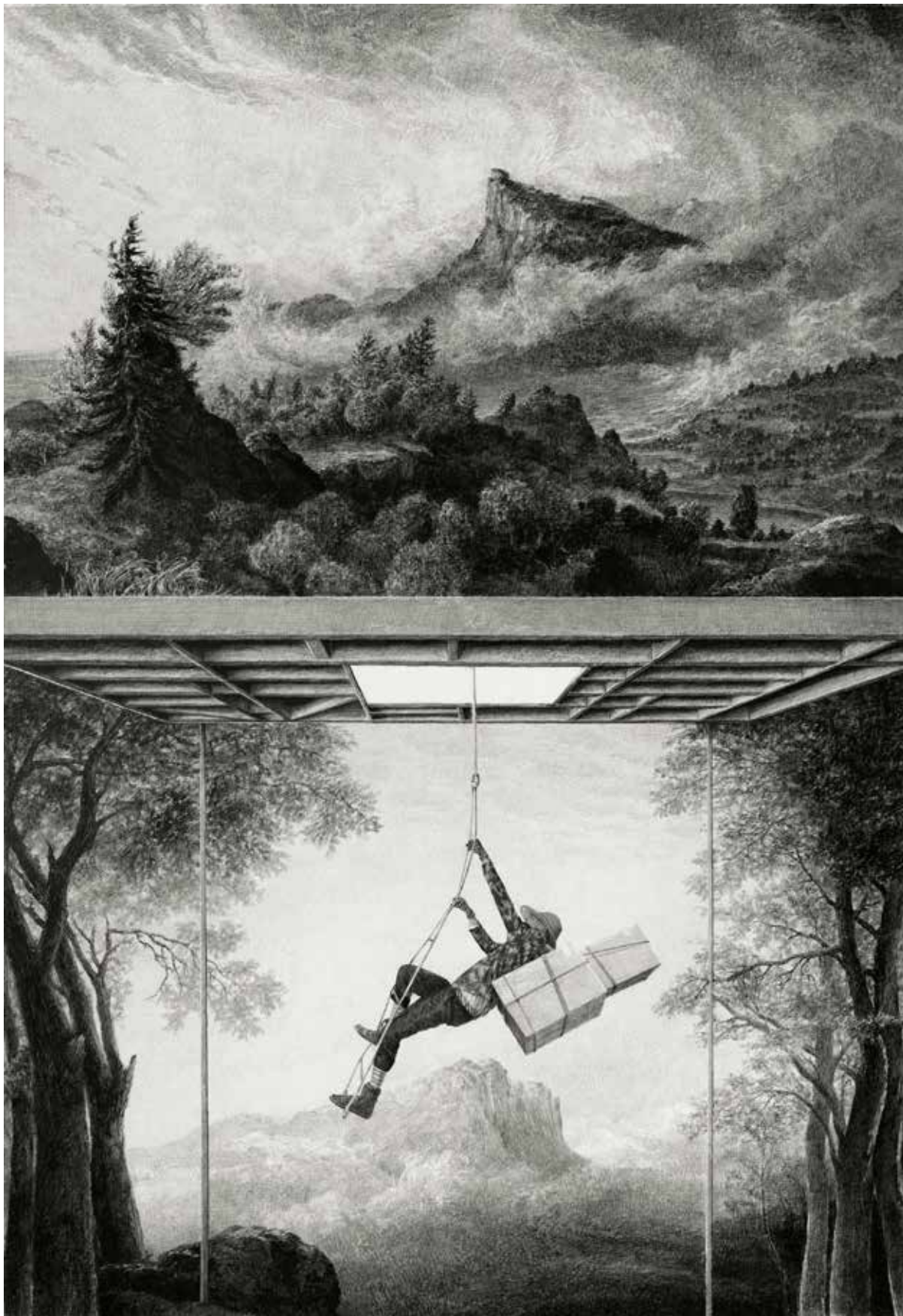
Courtesy  
Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris



Ethan Murrow  
*Chanter Highflow*, 2021  
Acrylic on board  
120 x 120 cm

Courtesy [Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris](#)





Ethan Murrow  
*Flora Boundary*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
178 x 122 cm

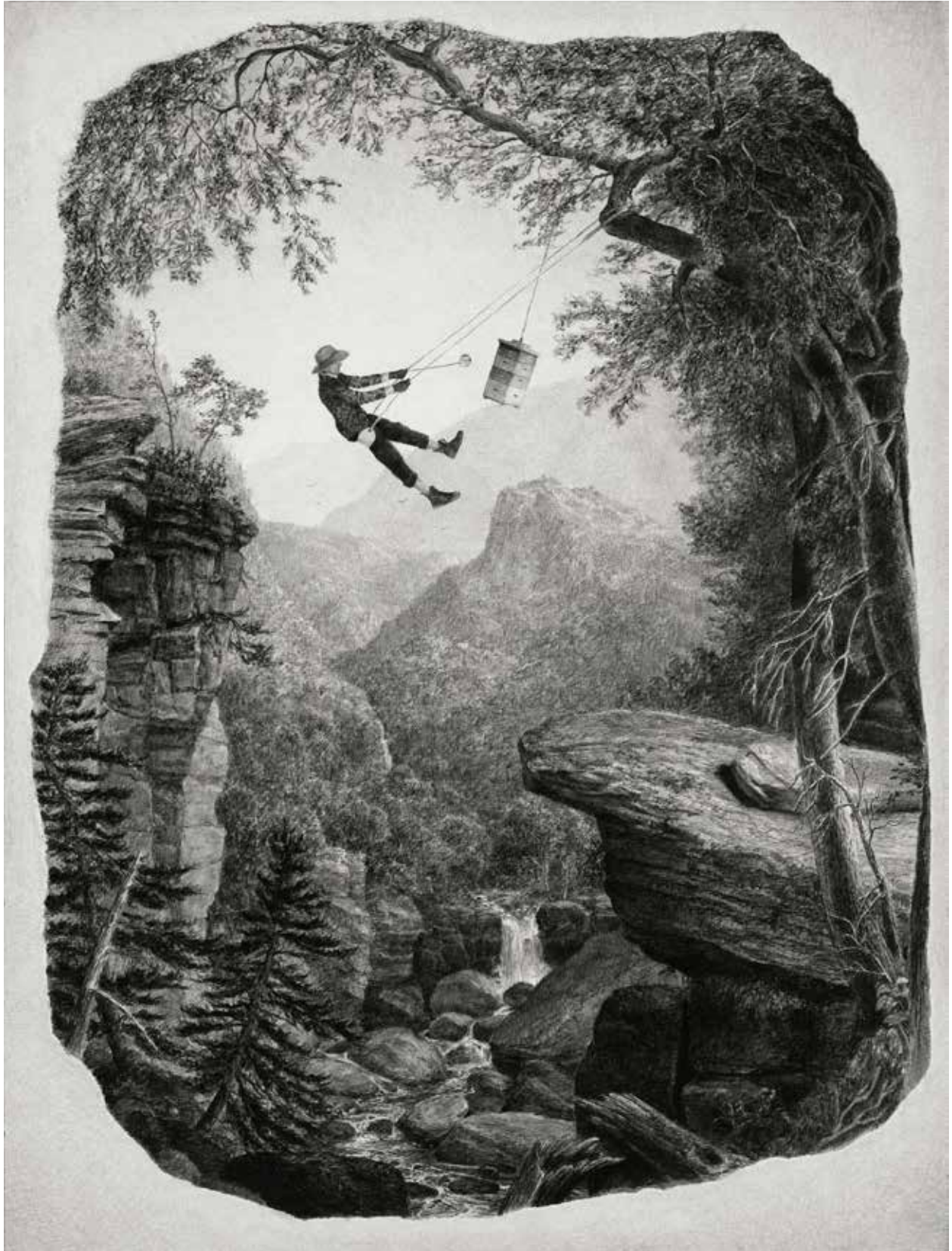
[Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris](#)



Ethan Murrow  
*Marathon*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
91 x 91 cm

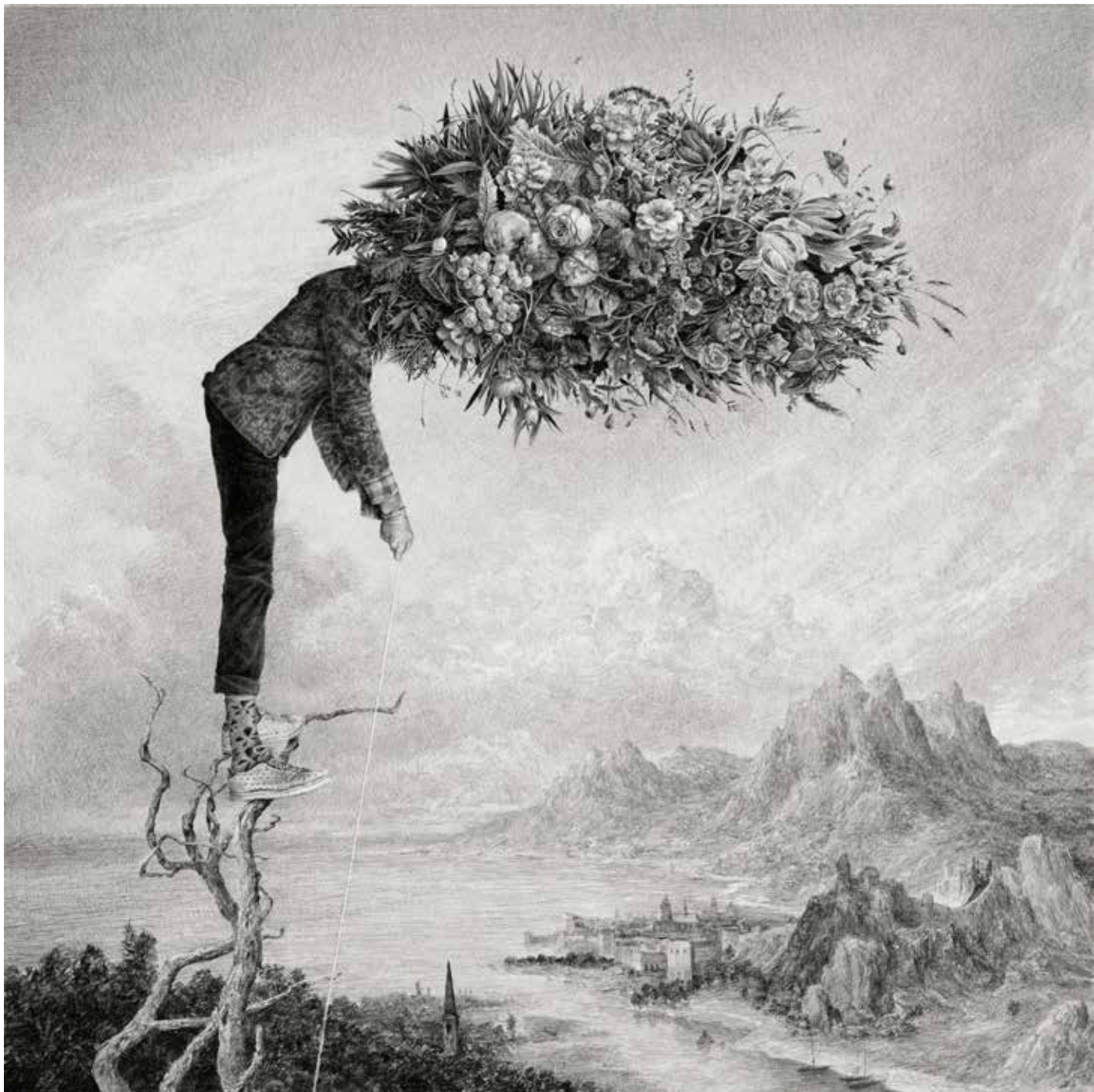
[Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris](#)





Ethan Murrow  
*Pollen Song*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
121 x 91 cm

[Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris](#)



Ethan Murrow  
*The Gleaner*, 2021  
Graphite on paper  
91 x 91 cm

[Courtesy Galerie Les filles du calvaire, Paris](#)



## BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1975. Lives & works in Boston.

Ethan Murrow's drawing, video, sculpture and installation projects delve into the idealized and uncomfortable ways in which histories are told, retold and molded into grandiose narratives. Ethan received his B.A. from Carleton College and his M.F.A from The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Recent solo museum shows include the Institute of Contemporary Art Boston, Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville and the Clay Center in West Virginia. Current solo shows include the Currier Museum of Art in Manchester, NH and Duddell's in Hong Kong. Ethan is represented by La galerie Les filles du calvaire in Paris, Slete Gallery in Los Angeles and Winston Wachter Fine Art in New York City and Seattle. Ethan was recently awarded the Stein Emerging Artist Prize by MOCA Jacksonville, participated as Artist in residence at Facebook Inc., was a fellow at the Ballinglen Foundation in Ireland, received a Massachusetts Cultural Council Fellowship and was included in the 2013 deCordova Museum's Biennial with a three-story wall drawing. His work is in many public, private and corporate collections and has been reviewed and published widely around the world. A monograph on his work came out in the fall of 2015 with the German publisher Hatje Cantz. His film project "Dust" with Harvest Films and wife Vita Weinstein Murrow was an official selection of the 2008 New York Film Festival. The Murrow's also published their "mostly" wordless picture book, "The Whale" in Europe with Big Picture Press and in the USA shortly after that with Candlewick Press. They have two upcoming publishing projects in the works with Candlewick Press. Murrow is Chair of Painting and Drawing at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University.

## EDUCATION

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|------|--|
| 2002 | University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC<br>Master of Fine Arts degree in drawing, painting and sculpture |
| 1998 | B.A. in Studio Arts with a focus on painting and<br>printmaking with Distinction in The Arts                   |

## SOLO EXHIBITIONS

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|---------|---|
| 2021    | Galerie Les Filles Du Calvaire, Paris France  |
| 2021    | Cahoon Museum, Cotuit, MA   |
| 2021    | Winston Wachter, Seattle, WA  |
| 2019    | Obsolete / Slete, Culver City, CA   |
| 2019    | "The Western Sublime" Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ  |
| 2019    | La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France  |
| 2018    | Currier Museum of Art, Manchester, NH<br>Duddell's, Hong Kong   |
| 2017    | Winston Wachter, Seattle, WA  |
| 2016    | Winston Wachter, New York, NY<br>Museum of Contemporary Art, Jacksonville, FL                                       |
| 2015/16 | Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA   |
| 2015    | La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France<br>Obsolete / Slete, Culver City, CA   |
| 2014    | Winston Wachter, New York, NY   |
| 2013    | La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France<br>The Clay Center for Arts and Sciences, Charleston WV                      |
| 2012    | Obsolete, Venice, CA  |
| 2011    | Winston Wachter, New York, NY<br>La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France   |
| 2010    | Kendall College Art Gallery, Grand Rapids, MI<br>Winston Wachter Fine Art Seattle, WA<br>Obsolete Galery Venice, CA |
| 2009    | Winston Wachter Fine Art, New York, NY  |
| 2008    | Obsolete Gallery, Venice, CA  |
| 2007    | Winston Wachter Fine Art, Seattle, WA   |
| 2006    | Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA  |
| 2005    | Youngblood Gallery, Atlanta, GA<br>Reeves Contemporary, New York, NY  |

2004 Robert Rentz Gallery, Richmond, VA  
2003 "Space Lab" Spaces Gallery, Cleveland, OH

## **GROUP SHOWS**

2019 Musée L, Musée Universitaire de Louvain  
"The Western Sublime" Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ  
La Galerie Particulière, Paris, France  
2017 "The Apartment" Space 538, Portland, ME  
"Journeys into Peripheral Worlds", Des Moines Art Center, IA  
2016 "Journeys in/to Alternative Worlds" Kohler Arts Center, Sheboygan WI  
Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellows, New Art Center, Newton, MA  
2014 "The Vault" Spaces, Cleveland, OH  
2013 deCordova Biennial, Lincoln, MA  
2012 "New Works by Visiting Artists" Graphic Studio Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
"Like, Comment, Share" Katzen Arts Center, Washington D.C.  
2011 "The Universe Seeing is Knowing" Weitz Center Museum, Carleton College,  
Northfield, MN  
2010 "Fast Forward - Four for the Future" Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque, NM  
2009 "H2O Film on Water" Reeves Contemporary, New York, NY  
"On Paper" Jenkins Johnson, New York, NY  
2008 "New Prints" The International Print Center, New York, NY  
2005 The Ever Changing Landscape The Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft Louisville, KY  
2004 Building a Legacy The Bemis Center, Omaha, NE  
2003 Violent Violence Gallery Art et Amicitiae, Amsterdam, Holland  
2002 Coloring Words The Fotogalerie, Fringe Club, Hong Kong  
2001 International Sculpture Center at Grounds For Sculpture, Hamilton, NJ

## **MONOGRAPHS / AUTHOR**

"Hauling - Ethan Murrow" Samantha Cataldo, Currier Museum of Art 96 Pages

"Ethan Murrow" Berlin; Hatje Cantz, 2015, 120 pages with an essay by ICA Boston Curator Ruth Erickson

Ethan and Vita Murrow "The Whale" London, Big Picture Press / Templar 2015 Sommerville, Candlewick Press 2016

"Ethan Murrow" Los Angeles: Obsolete Books, 2008, 116 pages with essays by Ric Kasini Kadour and Ray Azoulay

## **SELECTED PUBLIC AND CORPORATE COLLECTIONS**

Expedia Group  
Facebook Corporation  
TIA Foundation  
Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville  
Arkansas Museum of Fine Arts  
Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences  
The Guggenheim Foundation  
Cornell Fine Arts Museum  
The University of New Mexico Art Museum  
Perlman Museum at Carleton College  
The Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts  
Liberty Media  
20th Century Fox  
Harvest Films  
Burton Snowboards  
Burj Dubai - EMAAR  
The Copper Press





galerie  
Les filles  
du calvaire

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Open from tuesday to saturday  
11<sup>AM</sup> to 6.30<sup>PM</sup>

COMM  
UNIC  
ART | AGENCY

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