

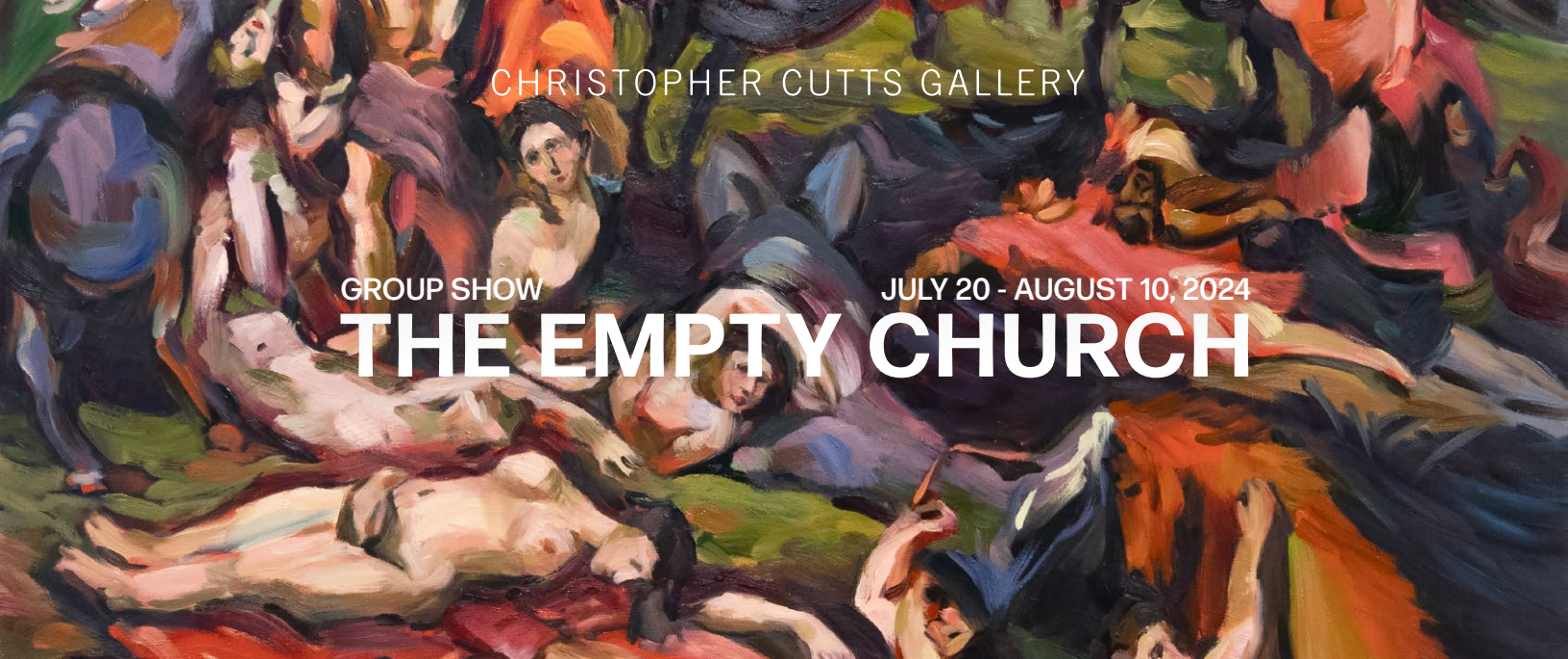
CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY

GROUP SHOW

JULY 20 - AUGUST 10, 2024

THE EMPTY CHURCH

DIGITAL CATALOGUE



CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY

GROUP SHOW

JULY 20 - AUGUST 10, 2024

THE EMPTY CHURCH

A pair of dogs fight, a woman dies over and over, a lover lies still in bed.

“The Empty Church” is a meditation on the loss of life, presenting and juxtaposing vastly different, often traumatic yet nuanced, depictions of death. From spectacles of violence to intimate reflections on mortality, the artworks on display convey grief, discomfort, and anxiety. The gallery’s blank walls, and the sanctity of the white cube, set the stage for the gnashing of teeth and inescapable loss of life. The viewer is enraptured in somebody’s losing battle -witnessing their loss, losing by their side.

“The Empty Church” will feature paintings, photography, and sculptural work by gallery artists such as Rae Johnson, Janieta Eyre, Sherri Hay, and Gordon Rayner. It will also premiere paintings by Toronto-based artists Shinae Kim and Jobelle Quijano.

The exhibition is divided into two thematic sections. The South Gallery features sensational outbursts of violence, while the North Gallery hosts perturbingly still and subtle contemplations of loss. The contrasting subject matter and jarring combination of moods will leave the viewer in a state of ambivalence, unsure of how to react to any one tragedy but forced to experience them all.

For instance, the crushing black and white crowds of Sherri Hay’s charcoal drawings (detail: left) suffocate the viewer amidst bloodthirsty games and performances, while Janieta Eyre’s series of *Rehearsals* (detail: right) casts the audience as voyeurs caught silently witnessing varying iterations of the artist’s death.



CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY

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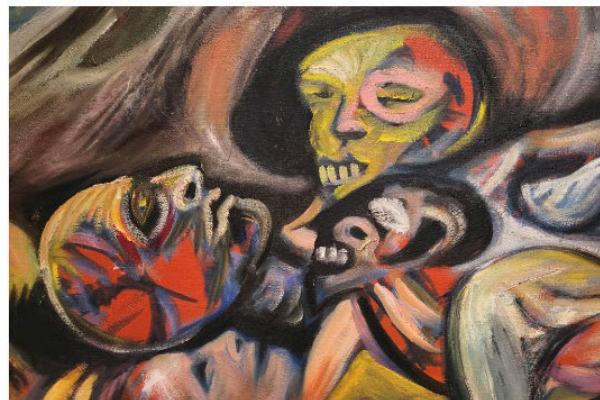
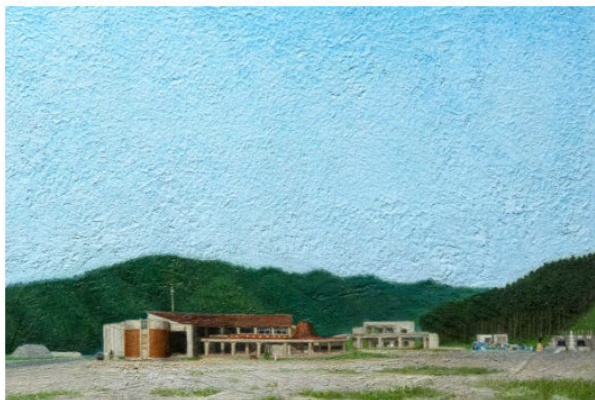
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The blood-spattered altar of Gordon Rayner's *The Empty Church* (detail: left), the exhibition's titular piece, was painted in anxious anticipation of an explosive dog fight, based on the artist's observations of wild dogs occupying old church courtyards of Oaxaca. Conversely, the weeping figures of Shinae Kim's war-torn tableaux (detail: right) reference battles past, drawing upon histories and mythologies of conflict and violence.



And while both Daisuke Takeya and Rae Johnson created pieces in response to contemporary tragedies and the loss of a child's life, there's a stark contrast between Takeya's daylight landscape and Johnson's sublime vortex of colour. Takeya commemorates the loss of over 80 lives in the 2011 Tōhoku tsunami with a beautiful, tranquil depiction of the *Ishinomaki Okawa Elementary School* (detail: left). Johnson's *Death of the Child* (detail: right) was painted after the artist heard the news of "yet another rape and murder of a little girl in Toronto," depicting the harrowing scene with monstrous forms taking over the child.



"The Empty Church" asks viewers to confront conflicting depictions of loss. Whether through a slow march towards the death of a relationship or in an overwhelming entanglement of struggling bodies, something resonates – perhaps a reckoning with our own mortality or simply compassion for the lives lost in our presence. In an age that forces us to not only become desensitized to violence but to live in anticipation of it, these works invoke reaction and reflection, not due to shock value but through an understated, persisting sense of humanity. Viewers may find solace in the same lurid compositions that prompt their distress.

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



south gallery, north wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



GORDON RAYNER
The Empty Church
1994
acrylic on canvas
71 x 54 inches (180.3 x 137 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER

Bounty

2010

silicone, oil paint, glass, beads, urethane

2.5 x 20 x 8.5 inches (6.5 x 51 x 21.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



south gallery, east wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



SHINAE KIM
Circe's Bath
2024
oil on panel
38 x 44 inches (96.5 x 112 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



SHERRI HAY

So Full is the World on Calamity That Every Source of Pleasure #1
2007

charcoal on mat board

29.75 x 39.5 inches (75.5 x 100.5 cm)

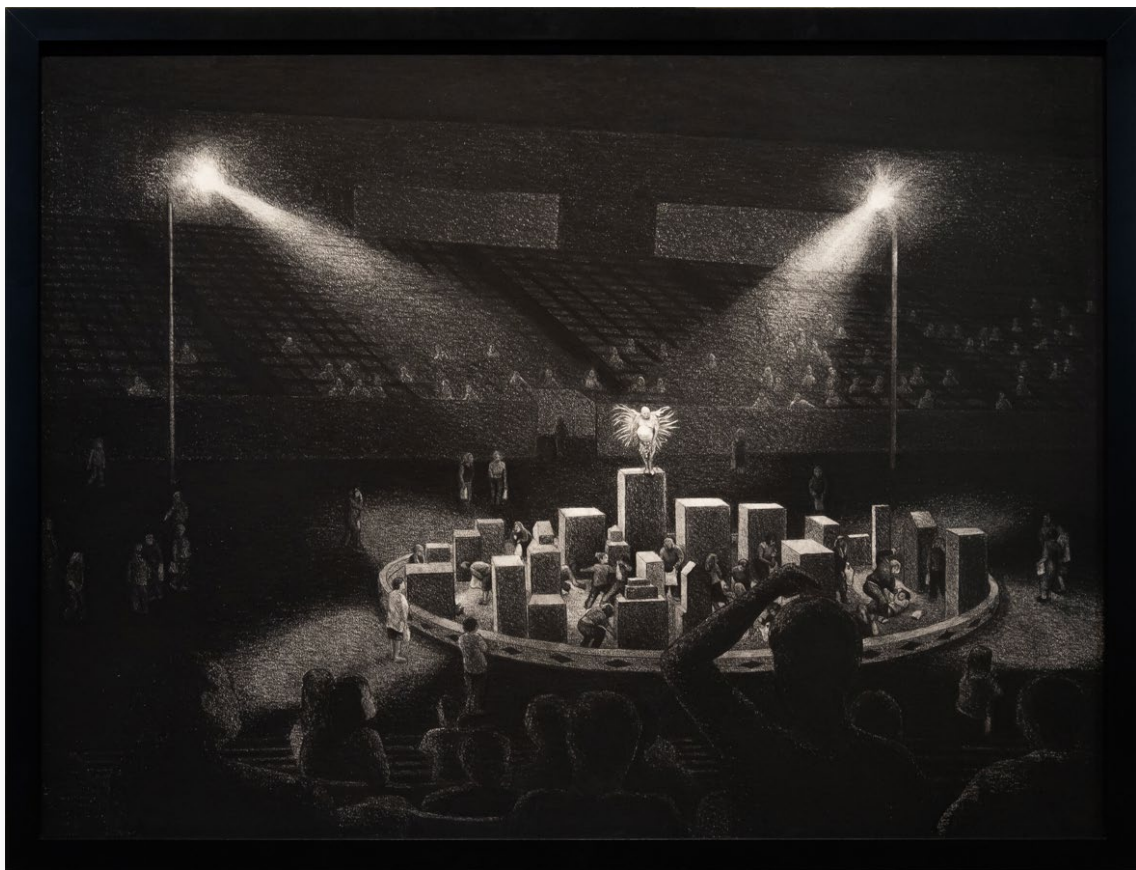
32 x 42 inches (81.5 x 106.5 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



SHINAE KIM
Saturday's Inferno
2024
oil on panel
40 x 50 inches (101.5 x 127 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



SHERRI HAY

Game Three

2006

charcoal on mat board

29.75 x 39.5 inches (75.5 x 100.5 cm)

32 x 42 inches (81.5 x 106.5 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



south gallery, south wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



RAE JOHNSON
Death of the Child
1985
oil on canvas
78 x 89 inches (198.1 x 226.1 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



DREW SIMPSON
Untitled
2008
oil on masonite
23.5 x 23.5 inches (59.7 x 59.7 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



south gallery, west wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CARLOS & JASON SANCHEZ

Misuse of Youth

2007

inkjet print

58.5 x 87 inches (148.5 x 221 cm)

60.75 x 89.25 inches (154.5 x 226.5 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER

Bundles

2009

resin, string, horseshoe nail, oil paint

6 x 6 x 2.75 inches (15 x 15 x 7 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER
Sebastian
2009
oil on canvas
18 x 18 inches (45.5 x 45.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER
Martyr
2009
oil on canvas
18 x 18 inches (45.5 x 45.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER
The Merry
2009
oil on canvas
18 x 18 inches (45.5 x 45.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER

Bundles II

2009

resin, string, horseshoe nail, oil paint

6 x 3.5 x 2 inches (15 x 9 x 5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



north gallery, north wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



RAE JOHNSON
The Dawn
1985
acrylic on canvas
62 x 79 inches (157.5 x 200.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER
Serpent
2012
hand built porcelain
1.5 x 7 x 10 inches (4 x 18 x 25.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



north gallery, east wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



JANIETA EYRE

Rehearsal

1993 - 1994

c-print

13 x 19 inches (33 x 48.5 cm)

22 x 28 inches (56 x 71 x 4 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



JANIETA EYRE
Rehearsal #16
1993 - 1994
c-print
13 x 18.5 inches (33 x 47 cm)
24 x 27.5 inches (61 x 70 x 4 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



JANIETA EYRE

Rehearsal #12

1993 - 1994

c-print

11.5 x 17 inches (29 x 43 cm)

21 x 25.5 inches (53.5 x 65 x 4 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



JANIETA EYRE

Rehearsal

1993 - 1994

c-print

13 x 15 inches (33 x 38 cm)

22.25 x 23.75 inches (56.5 x 60.5 x 4 cm) framed

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



north gallery, south wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



RICHARD STIPL

Untitled

2010

modelling clay, oil, and hair

11 x 16 x 5 inches (28 x 40.5 x 12.5 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



JOBELLE QUIJANO
What Gives You the Right to be Held
2022
oil on canvas
36 x 48 inches (91.5 x 122 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



CHRISTY LANGER

Bird

2012

hand built porcelain

5.5 x 5 x 2.75 inches (14 x 12.5 x 7 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



north gallery, west wall

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



DAISUKE TAKEYA
Ishinomaki Okawa Elementary School
2015
oil on canvas
36 x 46 inches (91.4 x 116.8 cm)

CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



DANA HOLST

Casket

2015

oil and encaustic on paper

22 x 30 inches (55.9 x 76.2 cm)