

R E Y N O L D S G A L L E R Y

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Paul Ryan

On The Hop: New Paintings

November 2 – December 22, 2012

Opening Reception for the Artist
Friday, November 2, 7 – 9 pm



binder, 2012, oil and acrylic on canvas, 12 x 90 inches (detail)

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of recent paintings by Paul Ryan entitled *On the Hop: New Paintings*. The exhibition will open with a reception for the artist on Friday, November 2 and continue through December 22, 2012.

Ryan's new series of paintings outline, question, and bring to light the relationship between wilderness and institution. His paintings captivantly confront the process by which the human understanding of nature is constructed through institution and language, and how this structured conception hinders our ability to interact with nature in any pure, unmarked way. Ryan states, "These new paintings express my interest in how we process experience as we live in the interstices between our biological/chemical/geological geographies and the ideologies and desires that form our identities and affect our modes of being" (2012). Reflecting on structuralist theories, Ryan calls attention to mediated experience and employs imagery that references the interconnectedness of nature and culture: profiles of tree tops, cross-sections of tree stumps, human bodies, and commercial packaging.

Ryan is Professor of Art and Department Chair at Mary Baldwin College in Staunton, Virginia where he is also the curator of the Hunt Gallery. In addition, he teaches critical theory in the MFA program of the Painting and Printmaking Department at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, VA. He received his MFA from VCU and BA from Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. Ryan is a contributing editor for *Arts Papers Magazine* and has written for a number of other art publications including many exhibition catalogs.

Since 1983 Ryan's work has been widely shown at Rockefeller Arts Center Art Gallery, SUNY Fredonia, NY; McLean Project for the Arts, McLean, VA; 1708 Gallery, Richmond, VA; duPont Gallery, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA; Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA; and Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC. His paintings are in numerous corporate and public collections including Markel Corporation, Dallas, TX; Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA; University of Virginia, Charlottesville; Hunton and Williams, Capital One, Philip Morris, and First Market Bank, all, Richmond, VA.

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