



Poster Design: Mine Suda

迈克尔·伊德：率土之滨
MICHAEL EADE: REALMS OF THE SOIL

September 9—November 12, 2017

Opening Reception: September 9, 2017, 5–8 pm

Location: Fou Gallery, 410 Jefferson Ave, #1, Brooklyn, New York, NY 11221

Hours: Saturday 11am–6pm, or by appointment (info@fougallery.com)

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NEW YORK - Fou Gallery is pleased to announce that the new exhibition *Michael Eade: Realms of the Soil* will be on view from September 9 to November 12, 2017. The gallery will present more than ten pieces of egg tempera paintings and watercolors from Michael Eade's recent series "The Wild Fruit Forest - Tree of Life" and "Nurse Log." In this exhibition, Eade will also create a site-specific nurse log that

interacts with the architectural elements of Fou Gallery's brownstone space and a series of ceramic Nurse Log sculptures in collaboration with Eric Dolgins. The opening reception of the exhibition will be held on Saturday, September 9 from 5–8 pm.

In 2010, Eade began a body of work depicting his vision of the ancient fruit forests in the western Tian Shan mountains, at the border of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and China. This area is the genetic origin to over 300 wild fruit and nut species on our planet, including the apple, pear, plum and cherry to name a few. However, because of the encroachment of mankind, the break-up of the Soviet Union and lack of local financial resources, 90 percent of those fruit and nut forests have been destroyed in the past 50 years¹. Learning all this inspired Eade to visually eulogize this botanical Eden, into which he also incorporates in his iconic "Tree of Life". The large-scale *The Wild Apple Forest* (2012) depicts a waterfront apple forest with twisted roots and branches that grow profusely outside the frame. His "Tree of Life" is centered on an island precipice. Eade composes directly onto each painting without pre-drawing and allows the forms to grow naturally through intuition and patience. Eade is different from traditional egg tempera painters, as he intentionally utilizes the negative space of the gesso ground to transform the white into positive and ornamental forms, which creates a utopia separate from reality. Meanwhile, following traditional gothic altar paintings, Eade raises and gilds his apples with 22k and 23k gold leaf. A golden apple is both an implication of Eden and has been pan-culturally depicted in many world mythologies.

Eade purposefully creates landscapes based on real world places that are often associated with mythologies. Drawing inspiration from Eastern and Western art, botanical illustrations, collected objects and iPhone photos of real plants taken by Eade and his friends, Eade transforms his landscapes into his version of a "Utopia". Utopia is a homonym. In English it has come to mean a "delightful wonderland" or an "ideal society" - however ironically from its Greek etymological root it means "a non-existent place". Therefore, an ideal utopian world is actually a non-existent place. Similarly, Eade depicts landscapes that are also delicate, endangered and fleeting.

Inspired by nature and the cycles of life, in 2016, Eade started a new series, the "Nurse Log", by depicting fallen trees, which, as they decay, provide ecological harbor to seedlings. A fallen tree can feed surrounding plants and animals for several decades, and in doing so the nurse log becomes a completely

¹ Josie Glausiusz, "Apples of Eden: Saving the Wild Ancestor of Modern Apples," *National Geographic*, 9 May 2014.

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/apples-of-eden-saving-the-wild-ancestor-of-modern-apples/>



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self-circulating eco-system. In Eade's work, the log is usually gilded in silver or gold, highlighting its metaphorical importance - a participant and a contributor in the life cycle.

The "Nurse Log" and "Wild Fruit Forest - Tree of Life" series reflect Eade's ongoing exploration of Botany. The circle of life is the Nature's way to take and give back to the earth. Plants experience an endless circle of germination, growth, blossom, reproduction, death and renewal. On every little piece of land, circulation of birth, death, and rebirth happens everyday. In Eade's world, everything is preserved in a perfect and tranquil moment. The scene inside is breathtaking, yet it is fragile and vulnerable; the latent conflict could be triggered at any moment; and the circulation of renewal and death is endless. In this regard, Eade's art world is like the Realms of the Soil. It comes from the earth and ultimately falls back to its root.

*A self-published digital catalogue with an essay by Echo He will accompany the exhibition. Catalogue Design: Tianxing Wan; English Translation: Yan Yu. Available on Fou Gallery's website.

MICHAEL EADE (b. 1957, Portland, Oregon) Received a BA from Oregon State University and did further studies at the Staatlichen Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Stuttgart (studying egg tempera painting techniques), and New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (studying film and computer animation techniques). He has received many honors including a current residency at the Hermitage Artists' Retreat, a studio membership at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, and fellowships from the Robert Blackburn Printmaking Workshop, the National Academy Museum and School of the Fine Arts, Artists' Fellowship Inc., and Aljira. Eade's work appears in public and corporate collections including the Harvard Business School, HERMÈS, AT&T, the Library of Congress Permanent Collection and many private collections. In 2017, Michael Eade has his solo exhibition Realms of the Soil at Fou Gallery, New York. Eade will have an exhibition at Pombal Palace in Lisbon in 2018.

Fou Gallery is an apartment gallery and creative lab based in New York. Fou is dedicated to promoting creative talents and projects of our time. As suggested by its name, Fou is both a denial of the mainstream commercial gallery model and an active contributor to a new organic art community. With the belief that the enjoyment of art is an essential part of everyday life, Fou offers a vibrant, inspirational selection of original works in art and design. Website: www.fougallery.com

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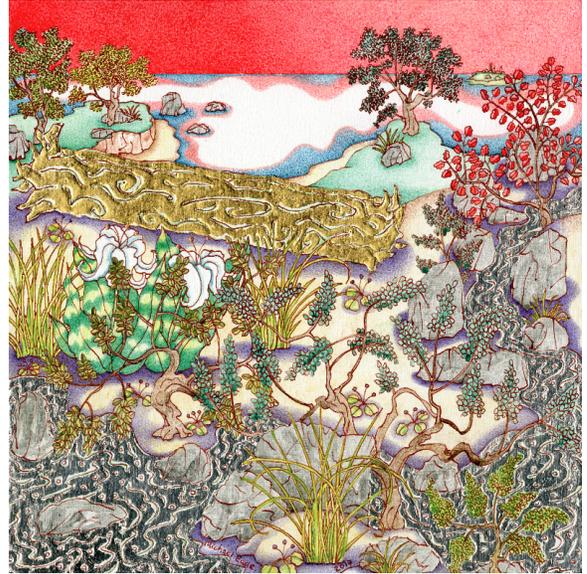
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Michael Eade, *The Wild Apple Forest* 野苹果森林, 60 x 72 in., Egg tempera, raised 23k gold leaf and oil on canvas, 2012. ©2017 Michael Eade, courtesy Fou Gallery



Michael Eade, *Full Moon* 月圓, 40 x 30 in., Egg tempera, raised 23k gold leaf, oil on canvas, 2012 ©2017 Michael Eade, courtesy Fou Gallery



Michael Eade, *Sunset and Gilded Log* 日落与镀金喃木, 11 x 11 in., Egg tempera, raised 22k gold leaf, raised aluminum and copper leaf on canvas, 2016 ©2017 Michael Eade, courtesy Fou Gallery