

Ross + Kramer is pleased to announce *Gimme Shelter*, a solo exhibition by Hunter Potter at the gallery's East Hampton location at 66 Newtown Lane. The exhibition will run from September 26th to October 16th, 2021 and is Potter's first show with the gallery.

Gimme Shelter consists of a new series of paintings and sculptures by Potter that nostalgically examine his own coming of age in Upstate New York, paying homage to "some of the hardest working, most innovative, and resilient men [he] could imagine" through the characters depicted. The seven paintings mix acrylic, oil stick, spray paint, and collage, while the sculptures are carved from the handles of vintage hammers Potter himself has collected.

A full time roofer for several years, Potter depicts exaggerations of the small-town, Americana environments that he remains strongly connected to. The body of work, viewed together, follows the workers in hi-visibility highlighter yellow shirts through the passing of an average day. You see the men tar papering the roof as the smiling sun just starts to grin and warm up in *Do Your Best and Caulk the Rest*, then you witness them shingling in the peak hours of sunburn in *Disco Inferno*, and finally, at sunset, they raise beers on the ridge of the new roof in *Another Day*. A shift has passed.

Potter says of his time in the trade, "Roofing is the epitome of blue collar work. It is not easy or glamorous. It is primal! You are quite literally putting a roof over someone's head. You learn what the sun is capable of as it blisters your back and forearms while you provide delightful and waterproof shade for the customer." While Potter describes his overall roofing experience positively, and the body of work does indeed carry a warm, nostalgic tone, the profession (and paintings) are not without danger.

"How the Mighty Have Fallen highlights my involvement in a [2010] scaffold collapse in Binghamton, NY, where several of my friends and coworkers were seriously injured due to a 3rd party company's faulty job setting up our platform. The deck fell from 58 or 59 feet. This was a life altering moment for me and, as a naive 19 year old, one of the first few times that adult reality really showed its ugly face. The accident happened during lunch break and I, after forgetting my lunch in the car, was enjoying my sandwich on the ground directly below the scaffold in the shadow it was casting. I remember hearing a strange "KINK!" and looking up to see the entire thing falling towards me. I must have managed to stand up and dive out of the way. After standing up in disbelief, we heard the scattered yells in the pile of wreckage and it all clicked in my head...everyone up above had fallen. From there on out the memory feels like a strange dream that even I question sometimes. I think those of us on the ground went into a strange fight-or-flight autopilot and began to dig out the injured. All I know for sure is that I was so damn lucky to have forgotten my lunch in the car that day. Maybe too lucky. Someone was looking out for me.

Many of the works, and the entire show itself, are titled after well known classic rock songs and Onward and Upward actually uses collaged text to spell out STAIRWAY TO HEAVEN. All of this is intentionally cliché. It seems like every job site I stepped foot on always had a radio playing the local classic rock station where the same 20 songs ran on repeat. Blue collar anthems. The stairway to heaven, in the realm of roofing, is of course the extension ladder that grants you access to the roof and also brings you high enough to fall and quite literally enter heaven."

Hunter Potter (b. 1990, Syracuse, NY) received his BA in studio art at the University of Vermont in 2013. In 2015, he moved to New York City and spent time sign painting, studio assisting, and art handling while finding his way to becoming a full-time artist. Now focused solely on his own practice, Potter maintains a studio in Brooklyn, New York. Potter has exhibited his work internationally with shows in the UK, Denmark, Spain, Greece, and the Netherlands. He received the PLOP Residency and The Fores Project Residency in London. Potter's work has been frequently featured in *Juxtapoz Magazine*.

Ross+Kramer East Hampton is open to the public from Wednesday to Sunday, 11:00 AM - 6:00 PM at 66 Newtown Lane in East Hampton, New York. For more information or to inquire about available works, please contact info@rkgallery.com or call +1 631 329 3100.