

DAVID PATTON LOS ANGELES

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Christie Fields - love me god free

6 September - 4 October, 2008

Reception on Saturday, 6 September, from 6-9 PM

love me god free

David Patton Los Angeles is pleased to present "love me god free" (sic), an exhibition featuring the work of Christie Fields.

The exhibition consists of 3 sculptures, hermai, with contemporary figures imagined as the Greek god Hermes: thief, trickster, messenger; the original god of commerce and fertility. The name Hermes comes from the word herma, which was a rectangular pillar of stone which, upon the top sat a bust of Hermes', and on the front was a relief of a phallus. Hermai were used as boundary markers on roads and borders; anywhere where different tribes and cultures came together, often to exchange and conduct trade. In Athens they were placed outside homes to bring good luck to the inhabitants.

Fields has constructed contemporary hermai by placing life-sized, sculpted, ceramic busts of the artist Andy Warhol, US President William Jefferson Clinton and entertainer Jay-Z in place of the traditional Hermes bust. These contemporary Hermes sit on a concrete rectangular column which rests on a base of California pine. As in the legend of the Greek god, these modern lords are tricksters and creators of culture who demarcate the (modern) marketplace and the language used within it. Power and desire is reflected in their tremendous wealth gained by the skills known to Hermes: interpreter, liar, bargainer, charmer, and one who invents language. Fields' interest in contemporary, historical and potential future avenues of exchange, commerce, communication and the transfer of information informs these satirical monuments which channel Thomas Nast by way of Brancusi. These three figures are emanations of Hermes (Loki, coyote, etc) and project a new paganism: the love of mammon over god, the replacement of virtue with value; they are the celebrated creatures of mammon.

Christie Fields was educated at California State University, Long Beach and Art Center College of Design, Pasadena. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, Miami Art Museum, Art Gallery of Ontario, PLUG in ICA, Winnipeg, Glendale College Art Gallery, Kellogg Art Gallery; Solo exhibitions include: David Patton Los Angeles and CRG Gallery, New York.

For additional information, please contact the gallery. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday 12 noon to 6 PM and by appointment.