

FRED TORRES COLLABORATIONS

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INNOVATIVE COLLAGE ARTIST **GEORGE RAHME**

Info/Images Courtesy: Fred Torres Collaborations

Artist George Rahme finds inspiration in abandoned cultural capital engrained in our collective memory as kitsch; throwaways in a society inundated by imagery. The backdrop of industrial Detroit lends context to Rahme's meticulously assembled collages, which often concern themselves with themes of ruin and rebirth.

Recontextualized as lush, emotive collage, the viewer is willfully cast in the current of Rahme's lovingly dissected ephemera, thick enamel house paint, and wholly new vision. In this regard, a thread of hope runs through even the most apocalyptic of Rahme's collages, suggesting a phoenix rather than a forest fire, representing perhaps a collective yearning, reaching toward a rediscovery only made possible by having been disconnected.



Fred Torres Collaborations presented "Romance & Ephemera, Remixed" in early Dec. 2012 by artist George Rahme, his most recent work made especially for this year's PULSE Miami Art Fair.

More About the Artist:

It employs various techniques that endow all things with a deeper meaning and reveal mysteries that always threaten the secure tranquility of simple and ingenuous things.... it is a question of representing before our eyes, in an intuitive way, the fact, the interior figure, of the exterior world.

- Franz Roh, 1925

George Rahme's canvases explore themes surrounding the bucolic activities of "the common man," paying homage to the work of fishermen, hunters, and ancient explorers. In his native Detroit, George Rahme is a scavenger for abandoned works on paper, many of them Bruegel-esque in tone. He collages layers of found images on a single canvas, then digs away at them to reveal hidden imagery and create new relationships between his source materials. The finished canvas reintroduces 19th-century landscapes intertwined with contemporary imagery, blending in such a way that makes the juxtaposition appear perfectly natural.

Rahme follows in the tradition of magic realism. The critic Franz Roh detected the birth of the movement in the 1920s and described it as process of revealing "interior mysteries" rather than hyperbolizing the external world. Rahme's real-life interior consists of Detroit's ghostly museums—abandoned buildings and train stations adopted as palimpsestic canvases, written and rewritten by Detroit artists.

Born in Lansing, Michigan to Lebanese immigrant parents, Rahme attended the College for Creative Studies in his hometown and graduated with High Honors in 2007. In addition to being a visual artist, he is an accomplished DJ and musician who has released records, toured Europe and the US, and makes frequent appearances in the thriving Detroit underground scene.

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