

NOSEGO

## ***INGRESS***

JULY 8 - JULY 29, 2017

Opening Saturday, July 8, 2017

**Thinkspace (Los Angeles, CA)** - is pleased to announce *Ingress*, a solo exhibition of new works by Philadelphia-based artist and muralist, Nosego, otherwise known as Yis Goodwin. His unmistakable work is character-driven, featuring creature hybrids assembled from animals, cartoons, landscapes, and even architectures. These bodies are aggregates of parts and oppositions, and reference themes like urbanism, the vulnerability of nature and the wild, mysticism and healing, mythologies, and art history. Unlikely visual and cultural worlds collide and fuse in Nosego's creative mashups, where objective realities are disassembled, fractured, and freely restored through the disinhibition of play.

Nosego's paintings and large-scale public murals are executed in acrylic with both aerosol and brush painting techniques. A gifted illustrator, he meshes a graphic illustrative style with a technical skill for realistic rendering, bringing his imagery to life through intense and contrasting styles and palettes. Virtually explosive in the fervency of their color and detail, the works are busily frenetic, humming with energy. They contain worlds within worlds and reveal microscopic moments hidden within the bursting textures of the whole. These are often as subtle as shifts in patterns, motifs, and variations in light. The cumulative multiplicity of his work owes as much, if not more, to the eclecticism of his stylistic freedom. The contemporary city is always an internal armature, however, a reference that hinges everything together through color, subcultural vibes, graphic sensibility and composition. Amidst those bones are hung traces of folklore, landscape painting, references to craft and domestic space, allusions to the celestial, kids toys, and a taxonomy of wild animals - ranging from the realistic to the caricature - rivaling that of a natural history museum's.

There is something vaguely Utopian about these creatures and the shape-shifting worlds Nosego anchors together, even when verging on the grotesque. Absolutely everything is possible, and nothing is so irreconcilably different or absurd that it can't ultimately coexist within a single frame. There are moments of darkness that emerge, particularly in imagery that deals more directly with themes of division and dissociation, but these shadows seem placed in the service of lawless dissonance and playful absurdity rather than despondency. His cross-sectioned animal hybrids, for instance, appear literally spliced as stacked segments, but even these feel mischievous rather than pained, and closer to a childlike fascination with deconstructed toys than anything belonging to the realm of gore.

As the title of the show *Ingress* suggests, the artist's work is about revealing and clearing entry points into elastic fantasy worlds rather than obstructing or circumscribing them. Each painting offers alternate realities in which to get lost, with countless ways to interpret and follow its loosely defined paths. Nosego invites the viewer to create their own story, to engage his visual world freely and as ecstatically as he creates it. The work, in all its beautiful strangeness, is open admission to a constellation of worlds.

DREW LESHKO

***THE ONLY CONSTANT***

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Concurrently on view in the Thinkspace Project Room is *The Only Constant*, featuring new sculptural pieces by Philadelphia-based artist Drew Leshko. Leshko's highly detailed sculptural works in paper and wood depict architectures and urban spaces, combining a documentary impulse with a nostalgic desire to immortalize the overlooked and the forgotten recesses of the cityscape. Made to scale at a 1:12 ratio, these miniaturized buildings, replete with every imaginable authenticating detail from signage to refuse, are inspired by the artist's immersion in the onslaught of urban change. In an attempt to preserve the structures and histories of his home city, Leshko creates painstakingly detailed pieces based on photographs and hewn from memory. From gentrification to historic preservation, the artist explores the city's momentums of conversion, destruction, and conservancy.

Leshko's phenomenally technical works are about transformation and safekeeping. Unassuming buildings, often neglected and bearing the vestiges of their past prime, are somehow reconstituted when miniaturized. The artist deliberately plays with the transformative potential of scale. When preciously fabricated, these minutely detailed works become valued and rarified facsimiles of an otherwise forgotten or degraded original. As depictions of real spaces, Leshko's work is an archive of time and place, in one sense, in that it captures the specificity of an actual moment. But it is also something of a homesick dedication, elevating an otherwise forgotten and "un-special" remnant of the city's ongoing, and irrevocable, pace of urbanization. The only constant is...