

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Modern West announces FIDALIS BUEHLER | *SECRET CAMP - ARE WE THERE YET?*

March 19 - May 7, 2021 / 412 South 700 West SLC, UT 84104

The exhibition will be open Tuesday - Friday / 10am-5pm, Saturday / 10am-2pm



Modern West is pleased to present *Secret Camp - Are we there yet?*, a solo exhibition featuring the works of Fidalis Buehler. The show will be on display March 19 through May 7, 2021. An artist reception to celebrate the exhibition will be held March 19, from 6-8 pm. All are invited to attend.

Buehler's artistic practice focuses on exploring manifestations of identity seen through the complexity of American culture and South Pacific traditions - calling attention to confrontations and conflicting realities. The narrative of his paintings straddle the line between levity and earnest devotion. Buehler explains, "Image making becomes an act of playful conjuring - reassembling personal histories that embody fear, anxiety, mythology, dreams, revelations, magic, mysticism, and ritual. The images are essentially a self-portrait seen through various forms of expanded and contracted narratives giving place for the viewer to exam the stirrings of my mind."

*Secret Camp- Are we there yet?* centers around the dynamic changes in social interactions as a result of predominant life forces. Responding to the coronavirus pandemic, Buehler's awareness of the familial pod extrapolates to the variety of social groupings, intensified from the pandemic and into his artistic practice. Neatly divided human clusters all sheltering from an ongoing storm, the ensuing frenetic reactions multiply.

In his latest body of work, Buehler employs his distinctive myth-making to create multilayered narratives. The exhibition highlights an eight by thirteen feet work on canvas titled *The Big Hurt*. The piece features a large bomber plane sporting war paint. A double entendre playing off the nickname of baseball player Frank Thomas, the subject oscillates between being the punisher and the punished. The Big Hurt becomes a moniker, teamed with the war paint, personifying the flying object. The plane flies, limping through the sky, forever suspended midair somewhere between victory and defeat. Exploring painterly magical realism, the narratives bounce, code switching though questions of what is of our reality and what is not.

Based in Utah, Fidalis Buehler's life story is a blending of two cultures - one being of Euro-American descent and the other of Pacific Island heritage. He exhibits in regional, national, and international exhibitions. Notable experiences include his participation in *Urban Mythologies*, Auckland's NorthArt Center, *New Mystics* at the CUAC, *Rose Colored Glass* at the Katherine E Nash gallery at the University of Minnesota, *Gallery Protocol* in Gainesville, Florida and a publication with *New American Paintings*.

1.Fidalis Buehler  
*Cloud Thief* / 2016  
mixed media on paper  
28 x 36 in



2.Fidalis Buehler  
*Conjuring - Team Assembly* / 2016  
mixed media on paper  
30 x 40 in



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*About Modern West*

Modern West is a gallery created by Diane Stewart to support established and emerging contemporary artists who, in compelling and varied ways, reframe our understanding of the American West. Through thoughtful exhibitions, the gallery illuminates both new and historical bodies of work that are relevant and meaningful for today's audiences.

contact: Sophie Schwabacher / [sophie@modernwestfineart.com](mailto:sophie@modernwestfineart.com) / 801.355.3383

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