

# JASON MCCOY GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

**Victoria Neel**

January 12 – February 24, 2012

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 19, 6 - 8 pm



*Untitled, 2011, gouache on paper, 8 ½ x 11 inches*

Jason McCoy Gallery is pleased to present a group of paintings and works on paper by the New York based artist Victoria Neel.

With an occasional affinity for the bizarre, Neel reinvestigates figurative expressionism. Though her style consciously borders on the naïve, her clear-eyed depictions of people, animals and mythic scenarios are far from innocent. She is particularly interested in contrasts. In her work, beauty and destruction, capture and flight, as well as loss and gain are always in close proximity.

In this complex installation of over 30 works from the past decade, Neel explores a concept she refers to as “Birds without Sky”. Many of the compositions feature antique airplanes on the ground or in mid-air, as well as urban pigeons. All these winged creatures, be they of mechanical or natural make up, serve as metaphors for dislocation and metamorphosis. While the pigeons are often considered a nuisance in the cities, Neel bestows them with iconic stature. Set against crisp white or black backgrounds, they transform into dignified reminders that we all are creatures of the same universe.

Victoria Neel received her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. Her work has been exhibited throughout the United States, including at the Provincetown Museum. She was a resident at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown twice, in 2000-2001 and 2001-2002. This will be Victoria Neel's first exhibition with the gallery.

Please contact Stephanie Simmons at 212-319-1996 or [stephanie@jasonmccoyinc.com](mailto:stephanie@jasonmccoyinc.com) for further information.