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Memorial, 2015, archival pigment print, 54 x 72 in.

Tim Portlock: *Ash and Gold*

June 3 - July 16, 2016

Opening Reception: Friday, June 3, 2016 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm

Locks Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of *Ash and Gold*, a solo exhibition of Philadelphia-based artist Tim Portlock. A reception for the artist will be held **Friday, June 3rd, from 5:30-7:30.**

In his first show at Locks, Portlock presents two series of large-scale cityscapes portraying semi-fictional views of Philadelphia and San Bernardino, California. These monumental vistas emphasize the built environment absent of people—focused instead on the prolific presence of vacant buildings and empty lots haunting cities today.

Originally trained as a painter and muralist, Portlock borrows conventions of 19th-century landscape painting (especially evident in his Philadelphia series) to situate historical American ideals within the larger social and economic forces that shape the physical landscape. Regarding his use of these conventions, the artist has said: “ I think about how early American landscape paintings were constructed to look realistic in order to convey a particular set of notions about the American national identity, as if these notions were part of the natural environment. I compare and contrast these visual conventions and ideals expressed in these earlier images with scenes that are familiar to the typical post-industrial American city.”

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Through a combined process of photographic documentation, 3D-animation and digital effects, Portluck's hyperreal portraits of American cities convey a disquieting sense of loss and an unsettling artificiality. His compositional choices, such as aerial views, dramatic light and contrast, ominous skies and horizons, which are traditionally associated with notions of the sublime, the foreboding power of nature and divine hand of god—are blended with the aesthetic of video games, military architecture, panoptic surveillance, and urban blight.

“While I could use many other mediums, such as painting, to construct these types of images, special effects and computer game software is uniquely suited to the task of making hyper-realistic visuals that approximate the real world... I am also interested in using computer software, which is specific to the post-industrial age, to create images that depict the decline of a way of life centered on industrial production.”

Tim Portlock currently lives in Philadelphia and works as a professor of the Integrated Media Arts program at Hunter College in New York and beginning in the fall, Washington University, St. Louis. Portlock's long interest in the dialogue between place and the formation of identity goes back to his early years growing up in Chicago. Recent exhibitions include *Roughneck Constructivist* at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, curated by Kara Walker; *Spring Break* New York (2015) curated by Complex Magazine art critics Leigh Silver and Ellie Clark; The Center for Emerging Visual Artist curator exhibition, curated by High Line director, Cecilia Alemani (2014); Portlock has also exhibited at *Photo Ireland* at Broadstone Studios (2012) and *No Soul For Sale* at the Tate Modern (2011), the International Guerrilla Video Festival Dublin (2009) and *This is Not a Gateway*, London (2009). He has also exhibited in Japan, Italy, Argentina and Austria. This is his first exhibition at Locks Gallery.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215-629-1000, fax 215-629-3868, or email info@locksgallery.com