



Garry Neill Kennedy
AN EYE FOR AN EYE (detail) 2004

In *AN EYE FOR AN EYE*, the conceptualist Garry Neill Kennedy converts the foyer of Museum London into an idiomatic critique of institutional power—be it government, the art world or IKEA. To Apr. 10. (421 Ridout St. N.) Kennedy's *FAILURE OF INTELLIGENCE* shows alongside Cathy Busby's "Sorry" at McMaster Museum of Art in Hamilton to Apr. 24. (1280 Main St. W.)

Dean Baldwin
Attachments, #17 (still) 2004



GARRY NEILL KENNEDY

Cloudy Moment in American History

3/10 - 22/11/ 2014

opening reception: Thursday October 2, 8-10pm

Artist will be in attendance

The Apartment is excited to present ***Cloudy Moment in American History***, a solo exhibition of new work by the pivotal Canadian artist **Garry Neill Kennedy**. Throughout his career **Kennedy** has employed innovative formal strategies in the service of political critique. Recently, these strategies have emphasized the political implications of colour and their naming, a central element in the two bodies of work included in this exhibition.

The first involves a new exploration of his work *An American History Painting* (The Complete List of Pittsburgh Paints Historical Color Series), 1989, which is held in the collection of the Vancouver Art Gallery and was subsequently developed as a wall painting for permanent exhibition at the National Gallery of Canada.

For this series of new works Kennedy started by excising a quarter inch cross-section from the VAG's layered American History Painting that, once blown-up, exposes the stratified layers of 56 pigments. As each colour is named for a moment in American history, **Kennedy's** cross-section can be understood as an archeological revelation. The stratum of pigments then formed the basis for a series of (56) atmospheric monochromes. Minute snapshots are enlarged beyond the camera's ability to picture, the subsequent blur echoing the way history dis/evolves through documentation. Like the shifting values of the once monochrome pigments, historical information is neither constant nor absolute but requires constant negotiation.

A second body of work, *An Eye for An Eye*, produced this year with Vancouver's Malaspina Printmakers continues the colours used in Kennedy's Ethics 101 series which are based around idioms of exchange and power dynamics. **Kennedy** terms this colour scheme "the Maher Arar colours" referring to the torture and detainment of this eponymous Canadian citizen beginning with his interception at New York's Kennedy Airport in September 2002 and his subsequent deportation to Syria under the program of extraordinary rendition adopted by the CIA and RCMP. The fluorescent orange comes from Arar's prison garments, the black from the electrical hose used in his torture, and the red, yellow, and blue reference the bruises Arar suffered during repeated interrogations. These colours were derived from his website description of this ordeal. Arar was not returned to Canada until October 2003.

In addition to his politically astute explorations in conceptual art, **Garry Neill Kennedy** is renowned for his contributions as a pedagogue and mentor. Born in St Catharines Ontario he obtained an associate degree of art from the Ontario College of Art, 1960, a BFA from the University of Buffalo, 1963, and MFA at Ohio University, 1965. He was selected just two years later to helm Nova Scotia's College of Art (NSCAD) where he served as President until 1990. Following the tradition of experimental education established by Josef Albers at Black Mountain College and Walter Gropius's Bauhaus, Kennedy's NSCAD became one of North America's most experimental and influential art institutions in the world. In the recent past **Kennedy** has presented solo exhibitions at Portikus, Frankfurt; Canada Gallery and Printed Matter, New York; Goodwater Gallery and MOCCA, Toronto; and nearly every large public gallery in eastern Canada. His works have been placed in many public collections including the National Gallery of Canada, Art Gallery of Ontario and the Vancouver Art Gallery.

Garry Neill Kennedy

