

# TOM SANFORD

“The Decline of Western Civilisation (Part III)”  
September 3rd – October 1st

GALLERY POULSEN 2011





"ITALIA ALLE VONGOLE (SILVIO BERLUSCONI)"/OIL ON WOOD/122X101.5 CM/2011

# "THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILICATION (PART III)"

For his first solo exhibition at Gallery Poulsen, Tom Sanford's work continues to reflect the artist's ambivalent fascination with a culture that is driven by the 24-hour news cycle, hungry for scandal and obsessed with celebrity. Sanford's paintings use a variety of genres to present the villains and victims, the tragedies and triumphs of the moment. The story of the hijacked Mersk Alabama and the rescue of Captain Richard Phillips by the USS Bainbridge are presented as a history painting akin to Géricault's Raft of the Medusa. The recently deceased British rock bad girl, Amy Winehouse, is painted as an icon to be venerated by her fans. The seamy exploits of anti-heros Charlie Sheen and Silvio Berlusconi are painted in a garish, yet beautiful tableaux; these paintings are part renaissance painting, part low brow political cartoon. Sanford's work is hybridized and bastardized like the culture it emerges from.

In the four Custom Mao paintings, Sanford shifts genres to the conceptual. Sanford takes advantage of globalization in his production by outsourcing a large part of the labor to China, and then adding the intellectual property himself in America. The artist has commissioned Chinese painters to paint copies of the famous state portrait of Mao Zedong, on which Warhol based his 1973 silk screen paintings of Mao. The paintings are then shipped to Sanford's New York studio, where he "customizes" them by altering the paintings to become cultural archetypes from his western cultural milieu. Through this conceptually driven means of art production, as well as the juxtaposition of eastern and western cultural iconography, the artist comments on the shifting dynamics of global cultural and economic power at the end of the American century.

Tom Sanford works in New York City and has exhibited all over the world, including solo exhibitions at Leo Koenig, Inc. in New York and Galleri Faur-schou in Copenhagen. His work has been exhibited at the Cincinnati Center for Contemporary Art, the Chelsea Museum in New York City and the Palazzo delle Arti in Naples, Italy. He is currently preparing for an exhibition in November at Gallery Zidoun in Luxembourg.



Morten Poulsen



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# 2011 IS FAST - PAINTING IS SLOW

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*"I am interested in history, but I work in a post-historical period. I make paintings about the time I live in. By the time I finish the paintings, their subjects are history. I am an American, living at the end of the American Century. Things are happening all the time. I learn about these things on the radio, on television, on the internet, on Twitter. The media is my muse, I paint by the light of my computer. I make paintings about the things that interest me. I wish I had time to paint more things, but art is slow and the world is fast."*

Tom Sanford, 2011



"CUSTOM MAO ZEDONG (MAGRITTE)"/OIL ON CANVAS/91.5X61 CM/2011



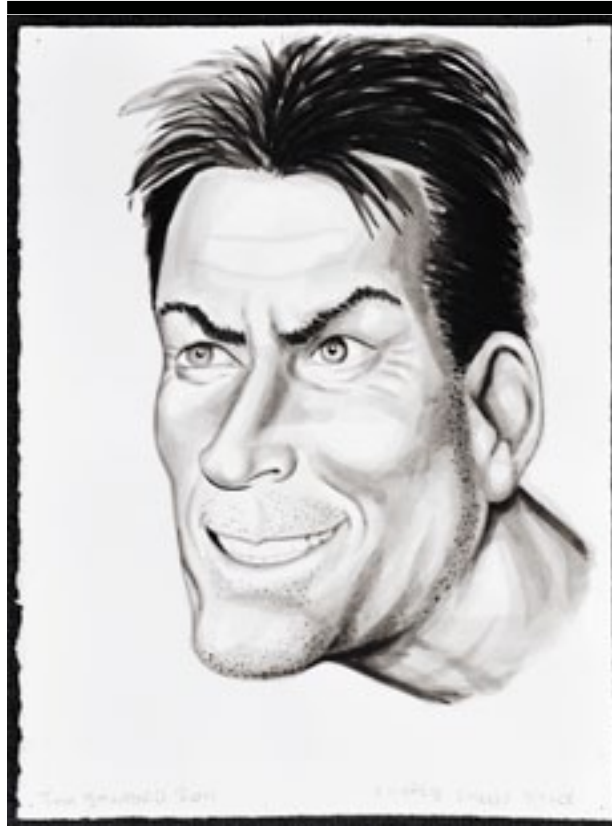


"THE SOMALI PIRATES VERSE THE USS BAINBRIDGE" / OIL ON CANVAS / 213 X 264CM / 2011





"STUDY OF AMY WINEHOUSE"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



"STUDY OF CHARLIE SHEEN"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



"CHINESE PRISON (AI WEIWEI)"/OIL ON WOOD/45.5X45.5 CM/2011





"#WINNING (CHARLIE SHEEN & CAPRI ANDERSON)"/OIL ON WOOD/122X101.5 CM/2011

**“SANFORD’S  
WORK IS  
HYBRIDIZED AND  
BASTARDIZED  
LIKE THE  
CULTURE IT  
EMERGES FROM”**



"CUSTOM MAO ZEDONG (KISS - GENE SIMMONS)"/OIL ON CANVAS/91.5X61 CM/2011



"CUSTOM MAO ZEDONG (PUNK)"/OIL ON CANVAS/91.5X61 CM/2011





"CUSTOM MAO ZEDONG (ZOMBIE)"/OIL ON CANVAS/91.5X61 CM/2011

**"I WISH I HAD  
TIME TO PAINT  
MORE THINGS,  
BUT ART IS  
SLOW AND THE  
WORLD IS FAST"**

Tom Sanford, 2011

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"NEWS OF THE WORLD (RUPERT MURDOCH)"/OIL ON WOOD/40.5X40.5 CM/2011



"STUDY OF CAPRI ANDERSON"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



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**“I MAKE PAINTINGS  
ABOUT THE TIME I LIVE  
IN. BY THE TIME I  
FINISH THE PAINTINGS,  
THEIR SUBJECTS ARE  
HISTORY”**

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Tom Sanford, 2011

TOM SANFORD / SEPTEMBER 2011 / PAGE 16/17



“WATERY GRAVE (OSAMA BIN LADEN)“/OIL ON CANVAS/122X101.5 CM/2011





"STUDY OF NOEMI LETIZIA"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



"STUDY OF AI WEIWEI"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



"STUDY OF RUBY RUBACUORI"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



"STUDY OF OSAMA BIN LADEN"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



"STUDY OF RUPERT MURDOCK"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X28 CM/2011



# CV AND EXHIBITIONS

**TOM SANFORD**  
Born 1975, Bronxville, NY  
Lives and works in New York, NY

**EDUCATION**  
1998  
BA Columbia University, NYC

2006  
MFA Hunter College, CUNY

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**  
2011  
The Decline of Western Civilization (part 3), Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

2008  
Mr. Hangover Leo Koenig Inc., New York, NY

2007  
Bad Religion, Galleri Faurshou, Copenhagen, Denmark

2006  
I will Fugn Rob Your White Ass, Leo Koenig Inc., NY

2005  
The Life and Times of TomPAC, Galleri Faurshou, Copenhagen, Denmark

2004  
TomPAC, Western Projects, Los Angeles, CA

2003  
-Bling, 31 Grand, Brooklyn NY  
-Keepin' it Gangsta, Keepin' it Global, Tomoya Saito Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

**SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS**  
2011  
-MAKE Skateboards, curated by Scott Ogden, i-20 Gallery, NYC.  
-Bitches Brew (New Art from New York 2), Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.  
-SICK! curated by Meghan Carleton and Max Wolf, Misc., NYC.

-Pornucopia, Allegra LaViola Gallery, NYC  
-Battle of the Brush, curated by Alex Glauber, Bryant Park, NYC

2010  
-Xmas Show, Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.  
-Three Amigos: Tom Sanford, Eric White & Nicola Verlota, Galleri S.E., Bergen, Norway.  
-RUN AND TELL THAT!: New Work from New York, curated by Eric Gleason and David Prince, SUart Galleries, Syracuse University, NY.

-The Incomplete – Paris, curated by Hubert Neumann, GALERIE JEAN-LUC+TAKAKO RICHARD, Paris, France.  
-50 Ways to Keep Your Lover, Galleri S.E., Bergen, Norway.  
-BIG PICTURE, Priska C. Juschka Fine Art, New York, NY.  
-Irascible Assholes, Gallery Poulsen, Copenhagen, Denmark  
-Currents – Benjamin Edwards, Jessica Jackson Hutchins & Tom Sanford, Nassau County Museum of Art, Long Island, NY.  
-BUSHWICK SCHLACHT curated by Guillermo Creus.  
-The Antidote, Claire Oliver Fine Art, NYC.  
-Never Can Say Goodbye, Tower Record/No Longer Empty, NY.

2009  
-TOO BIG TO FAIL, NADA/LaMontagne Gallery, 375 Flatbush, Brooklyn  
-No Longer Empty 3, The Invisible Dog, Brooklyn, NY  
-Low Blow: And Other Species of Confusion, Stux Gallery, New York, NY  
-Summer Exhibition, Marlborough Gallery, New York, NY  
-Luxus – Ruhe – Wollust. Arbeiten auf Papier, Galerie Michael Schultz, Berlin



"STUDY OF SILVIO BERLUSCONI"/INK ON PAPER/35.5X40.5 CM/2011

2008  
-In Your Face, Buia Gallery, New York, NY  
-The Main Event, Schroeder Romero, New York, NY  
-Leisure Suite (curated by Martin Bash-er), Neiman Center, Columbia University, New York, NY  
-Accrochage, Galleri Faurshou, Copenhagen, Denmark

2007  
-No New Tale To Tell....31 GRAND, Brooklyn, NY  
-The Incomplete (curated by Hubert Neumann), Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY  
-Heroes...Like us?, Palazzo delle Arti, Napoli, Italy  
-Dangerous Beauty, Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY

2006  
-Reflections (20 Year Anniversary), Galleri Faurshou, Copenhagen, Denmark  
-Celebrity, Sixtyseven Gallery, New York, NY

2005  
-Star-Star: Toward the Center of Attention, Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati, OH  
-Self Preservation Society, Leo Koenig Inc., NYC  
-Leaving Cockaigne, Leo Koenig Inc., NYC

2004  
-The Beautiful Ones, 31 GRAND, Brooklyn, NY  
-Rowdy Remix, ATM Gallery, New York, NY  
-Super Salon, Samson Projects, Boston, MA

2002  
-Derivative (curated by Sarah Rosenbaum), Bingo Hall, Brooklyn, NY  
-Enough About Me (curated by Deb Kass), Momenta, Brooklyn, NY

2001  
-EyeSaw, Ledeco Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

1999  
-Size Matters, Gale Gates et al., Brooklyn, NY  
-The Road Show (curated by Mike Wi-ess), dfn Gallery, NYC

1998  
-Surfing the Surface, dfn Gallery NYC



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