



NOWHERE BACKWARDS

Tom Reed Michael Krueger Randy Bolton



How do human beings fit into the landscape? How do we begin to tell the long and varied story of man and nature's delicately interconnected history? The studio practices of the artists Randy Bolton, Michael Krueger, and Tom Reed share this common desire. In the show *Nowhere Backwards* we see each artist's own particular, peculiar mixture of wide-eyed wonder, exuberance, dry wit, careful observation, and an uncanny sensitivity to their chosen materials as they labor to construct their individual narratives.

Bolton's direct, complex works, Krueger's spare, singular landscapes, and Reed's rustic assemblages share a deep desire to lay out the parts of their powerful stories. Each also seems to draw

upon and revel in days of their youth: Bolton's references to children's book illustrations, Krueger's use of colored pencils, as well as Reed's reoccurring foundation of well-worn Bingo cards and weathered word-finds. The palette in each artist's skillfully constructed prints and drawings echo those found in old magazines or story books, reinforcing the sense of wonder created by these delightful, ornate images. Their subject matter blends iconic, singular parts like a lone tree, a bird nest, or a waterfall with the most specific and intricate characters to form engrossing stories. These reoccurring, yet varied bands of players are usually animals in Reed and Bolton's hands, while Krueger employs a wide range of human figures that might include a



Native American chief, a dreadlocked hippie, or a colonial soldier. In these extraordinary works we see each artist portraying a common longing for a time long lost. The viewer finds the stark openness of the Krueger's Technicolor landscapes, Reed's truncated oaks, and Bolton's idyllic terrains obscured by myriad signposts and billboards. This uneasy longing is balanced by a richly cultivated sense of boyish charm. In this show we find each artist at the peak of their artistic prowess, deftly orchestrating these parts to layer his own wondrous, narrative tapestry.

Hamlett Dobbins
September 2012

Nowhere Backwards

Tom Reed, Michael Krueger, and Randy Bolton

September 27, 2012 - November 17, 2012

Opening reception: Friday September 27, 2012
From 6 - 9pm

Gallery hours for this exhibition will be Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday from 1-6, and by appointment.



Washington University in St. Louis

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Images listed from left to right:

1. **Randy Bolton**, *Your Future* 2012
2. **Michael Krueger**, *Gone* 2009
3. **Tom Reed**, *Place To Be* 2011
4. **Randy Bolton**, *Nothing Less; Nothing More* 2011
5. **Tom Reed**, *Twin Peaks* 2011
6. **Michael Krueger**, *Oh YEAH* 2009