

Press Release

Gobstopper Gallery Presents

CABIN FEVER

a collection of drawings by Gobstopper director Nicholas Burns

www.gobstoppergallery.com

October 31st - December 2nd

If it were not obvious before this exhibition came online, it may be by the time you see all of the work. Horror is my favorite genre to explore. Perhaps it's the thrill seeking feelings of being on edge where you never know what will come next. Maybe it's the psychological mind games the fateful characters go through during the film's runtime. Personally, I believe it allows me to feel some of my truest emotions in raw and unbridled form while being able to separate myself enough from the context of the work to relate it to my own inner dialogue and that of those around me. I believe as people we are constantly showing emotions in everyday life: happiness, sadness, love, elation, disgust, etc; but fear and unease tend to be ones that we keep locked inside us even when they can be the most intense. When I started creating these drawings, it truly began as something I needed to do to stay active in my practice whilst working with some materials I hadn't used in a while. Simultaneously drawing while watching something scary or nerve-wracking helped to activate a sense of freedom in my drawing process where I found myself changing colors or making new marks or shapes in reaction to the hairpin turn of a horror plot. Characters that have to think quickly on their feet or deal with sudden yet intense amounts of pain or loss.

As people I feel like the world around us can feel a similar way a lot of the time although its made to feel ordinary or ubiquitous. While I believe that to be true and that everyone can share in that experience of sudden torment externally or internally; I wonder how often we consider the ways in which our minds and our bodies brace for those events. In a twisted way, anxiety can manipulate past outcomes and make them our future realities. Our minds can fabricate situations and we joke about giving in to our intrusive thoughts but I'm curious about how those things come to be. Sketching or pre-planning work is always difficult for me as I rarely find the end result is anything of what I started out to make, so utilizing a stream of consciousness writing approach has made for more interesting outcomes in the work. Cabin Fever to me has a duality that meshes together the uneasiness and claustrophobia of being inside for too long; but taken more psychologically. I hope this work displays the fragile inner workings of one's psyche and the way the we can sometimes find ourselves inside the little tornado of uncertainty to be sent spiraling around our own world of insecurities until we've fought to find a sense of solace and brace for the next event that will start the spinning once again.