

High Contrast: The Charcoal Works of Gordon D. Chase '66 *November 2020 – Virtual Exhibition Release*

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“In this, the third and final segment of our virtual exhibition series on the work of Gordon D. Chase, we explore further the artist’s career-long quest to understand, and to help us understand, the promise of our human potential by examining our less-than-glorious histories as a species inhabiting this world.

In the following examples of his work, for instance, color is utilized strategically and thematically in pastel works from his series *The Nuclear Question*. Additionally, the literal and symbolic black-and-white contrasts of his charcoal drawings and his sculpture, more of which are featured here, morph into three colorful dimensions and allow his expressive vision to become mobile by exploiting another medium that further defines the arc of his career: photography. He presents us with a shift in his sculpture to site-specific installations which he then photographs in different series. His is a vision that, over the years, has continued to ask how we can continue to do the things – often self-destructive things – that we do. He shows us some of the ironies of our existence. And continues to ask why.

We at the Lamont Gallery thank you for sharing your time with us to experience virtually an exhibition that originally was meant to be experienced in person – and still is! The full exhibition of Gordon D. Chase’s work, a taste of which we have offered here in three “stages,” will be featured as a retrospective exhibition at the Lamont in the Fall of 2021, having been postponed a year due to the global pandemic.

As an artist who strives to create works that “capture moments of intense human drama,” Gordon D. Chase will not be running out of subject matter anytime soon. As we at the Lamont Gallery hope and prepare to be open to the public in 2021, please plan to attend his in-person exhibition to experience up close that which we have only been able to present in virtual form. Visit to experience the range of his vision and the power of his accomplishment in the Fall of 2021.”

Wes LaFountain '69
Guest Curator



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Death Flower Series: Happy Birthday*, Pastel on paper, 36" x 24"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Death Flower Series: American Power*, Pastel on paper, 36" x 24"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Death Flower Series: End of Beauty*, Pastel on paper, 36" x 24"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Violence Only Grows*, Marine plywood, 84" x 48" x 48"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Trial By Fire*, Marine plywood, 40" x 60" x 60"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Unexpected Madness*, Marine plywood, 40" x 36" x 96"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Watch Out!*, Marine plywood, 36" x 36" x 36"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Energy People: Dark Motives*, Photograph, 8" x 12"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Energy People: Refugee*, Photograph, 8" x 12"



Gordon D. Chase '66, *Energy People: Now or Never!*, Photograph, 12" x 8"