

FLASHPOINT

A CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 8, 2010

Contact: Emma Fisher
202.315.1312

emmaculturaldc.org

Flashpoint Gallery Presents Matthew Mann



The Cinecitta Chapel

August 6 – September 4, 2010

Opening reception: Friday, August 6, 6 – 8pm

WASHINGTON, DC – Flashpoint Gallery is pleased to announce painter Matthew Mann's first solo exhibition in Washington, DC. Adapted from Renaissance artist Giotto's Arena Chapel fresco cycle in Padua, Italy, Mann's *The Cinecitta Chapel* is comprised of six large-scale paintings. Created over the last year and a half, Mann's epic series replaces the religious iconography of Giotto's frescoes with cowboys and cartoon violence, creating pop culture allegories steeped in American myth.

The scenes that make up *The Cinecitta Chapel* are each adapted from one of Giotto's Scrovegni Chapel frescoes depicting the apocryphal story of Joachim. Mann combines pictorial elements of the fresco cycle with visual inspiration from the Spaghetti Westerns of Sergio Leone and the cartoons of Chuck Jones. The paintings' skewed perspectives, familiar yet unfamiliar imagery and unresolved Technicolor dramas invite viewers to imagine their own stories based on the ambiguous narratives in the paintings.

Playing with ideas of representation and narrative, and questioning the notion of "American-ness" is at the heart of the *The Cinecitta Chapel*. Employing humor and wit, Mann questions our myths and predicaments in a darkly comical and irreverent manner.

-MORE-

On Wednesday, August 25, the gallery will partner with Pink Line Project to present Pink Panel @ Flashpoint, a panel discussion with artist Matthew Mann and Chief Creative Contrarian Philippa Hughes about the exhibition. "Thought DJs" Adam Good and Jon Lee's [WE ARE SCIENCE!](#) will give a live performance in conjunction with the event. The event begins at 6pm and there is a \$10 suggested donation.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Matthew Mann earned his MFA at American University in Washington, DC where he currently lives and works. Recent exhibitions have included *Good and Dead* at the Morrison Gallery at Penn State Harrisburg, and *Four Ring Circus* at Gross McCleaf Gallery in Philadelphia, PA. He was awarded a 2009 Young Artist Grant from the DC Commission on the Arts from which *The Cinecitta Chapel* was produced.

ABOUT THE FLASHPOINT GALLERY PROGRAM

Flashpoint Gallery is dedicated to nurturing artists, expanding their visibility and encouraging dialogue between artists and arts patrons. As a nonprofit gallery, Flashpoint provides a special opportunity for artists and curators to present new media, site-specific installations, performance pieces and other experimental forms free from the constraints of commercial expectations. An advisory panel of noted artists and arts professionals oversees the programming for the gallery and provides mentorship and support to exhibiting artists. Cultural Development Corporation's (CuDC) Visual Arts Program is made possible in part through a generous grant from Altria Group, Inc. and from the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

ABOUT FLASHPOINT

Flashpoint, a Cultural Development Corporation project, is a nonprofit, multi-disciplinary arts space dedicated to nurturing emerging artists and cultural organizations in order to build their professional capacity. Flashpoint provides services and training for cultural organizations to help strengthen their management capacity and offers exhibit and performance spaces that enable arts groups to focus on their artistic goals and expand their visibility. Flashpoint includes a contemporary art gallery, the 75-seat Mead Theatre Lab, the Coors Dance Studio and shared office space for arts organizations. Flashpoint Gallery is generously supported by The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The Community Foundation for the National Capital Region, The Kresge Foundation, the MARPAT Foundation, the Eugene & Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, the National Endowment for the Arts, Prince Charitable Trusts and many other generous partners. Hotel Helix is Flashpoint's 2009-2010 Hotel Partner. Barefoot Wine is Flashpoint's 2009-2010 Wine Partner.

Matthew Mann: *Cinecitta Chapel*

Opening Reception: Friday, August 6, 6-8pm

Pink Panel @ Flashpoint: Wednesday, August 25, 6-8pm; \$10 suggested donation

Exhibition: August 6 – September 4, 2010

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 12-6 pm or by appointment

For more information: Call 202.315.1310 or visit flashpointdc.org

Flashpoint Gallery • 916 G Street, NW • Washington, DC 20001
A CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROJECT
General: 202.315.1305 **Press:** 202.315.1312 **Fax:** 202.315.1303
Email: emma@culturaldc.org

-- ### --