



JASON TOMME

BIO

Jason Tomme was born in Las Vegas. He has a BFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a MFA from Yale University. Recent solo exhibitions include; *Cashmere Yer*, Fernwey Gallery, Chicago IL, 2016; *In a Desert, On an Island, In a Room*, Theodore: Art, NYC, 2014; *Paper Lead Poem*, Nicole Klagsbrun Gallery, NYC, 2010; Chinati Foundation *Artist in Residence* Exhibition, Locker Plant, Marfa, TX, 2008; *Look Into the Crystals*, BUIA Gallery, New York, NY, 2006.

Based in New York City, Jason Tomme uses the idea of “location” as a base of inquiry through a variety of mediums. In the recent exhibition *Hello Letters* at Baik Art, Tomme built upon previous exhibitions where he juxtaposed fictional narratives accompanying the works on display. The narratives were delivered via faux typewritten letters addressed to “Charles.” Having found himself in an unknown location (“this lonely land”), the author (Charlie) writes to Charles with casual updates and seemingly peripatetic musings that veer into catharsis.

Tomme views the photos as documentary in nature— curated depictions of our real world, and yet still illusions. In contrast, his studio-based work embodies a crafted or imagined world where fact and fiction (plasticity and illusion) blur together to create the rarified art object. His Photographic series titled “Friends” was documented over a three-year period at a single location in Tomme’s hometown of Las Vegas, Nevada. The photos depict rocks swept into a graffiti-marked concrete runoff tunnel in various stages of light. Tomme’s visit to the secluded site documents “a dynamic but private passage of time.” Here time is both geologic and youthful. Geologic time in the sense of contemplating the rocks as ancient entities. And youthful time, in the sense that the graffiti itself is fast and temporary (made by young people), where the tunnel walls visually transformed year by year through stylized text and lettering.