

## The Metamorphosis

September 18th – October 31st

Project Room: Occam's Razor

Maya Stendhal Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition of the renowned neo-expressionist artist Rick Prol. The Metamorphosis featuring new paintings, has stylistic affinities to early expressionist masters Munch, Beckman, and Goya. Prol, a native New Yorker and Cooper Union graduate, came into prominence in the early eighties, along with contemporaries Haring, Basquiat, Schnabel, Wojnarowicz, and the 80's east village art scene.

The Metamorphosis, a series originally conceived in the mid to late eighties, took Prol approximately fifteen years to complete. Having worked primarily in acrylics, Prol's return to oils allowed him to create a richer surface quality and meaning. The build up of layers of paint and surface texture became a primary aspect of the image itself. In these respects, Prol's work is reminiscent of Gorky's paintings of the 1930's, specifically his self-portrait with mother and many still lifes, whose encrusted layers took many years to complete.

Prol's paintings are best described as personal pictures conveying an existential message, a desperate aspect of fin de siècle – anxiety and apocalypse. In Metamorphosis I, the interior with the lonely grotesque figure at the window surrounded by broken bottles is indicative of man-made vices of exile, substance abuse, addiction, isolation, excess, and repressed negative energy that eventually erupts into a state of mania. The expressionistic colors, vigorous brushwork, and a calculated textural surface bring the character to another dimension: the flesh takes on form, the colors take on life.

On view in the project room will be an installation, Occam's Razor, consisting of drawings and a large-scale sculpture. This exciting exhibition will open on September 18th – October 31st. The opening reception will take place Thursday, September 18th from 6-9pm.

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For further inquiries please contact Maya Stendhal Gallery.

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