Milwaukee, WI – The Green Gallery is pleased to present a two person exhibition of new work by Tokyo based artist Ken Kagami and Scott Reeder entitled *The Future is Stupid.*

Humor has no *real* place in art. Beauty has always been described as being devoid of laughter. According to Kant aesthetic judgment is disinterested and the contemplation of the sublime is akin to the feeling of terror. The intersection of Kagami and Reeder's work is entirely superficial – there exists no deep connection. Yet the semblance of a shared project and the resonance of the work in *TFIS* is interesting in that it defines the uniqueness of each artist's practice within the context of what the other is doing.

Ken Kagami is a collector of the obscene and absurd detritus of consumerism. Finding his degraded medium at the dollar stores or 100 yen stores and thrift stores he sifts and assembles from society's most democratic places of exchange. This includes the most democratic wasteland of them all: the street. The assemblages are obscene in a childish way: shit faces, boob pillows, and penis drawings. A naïve sexuality and childish humor is found in every object. There is a sense of design in the way in which Kagami chooses to install his work. Undoubtably we look at these strange objects differently within the context of the gallery, i.e. within the discourse of art. There is an intentionality in how Kagami deploys his strange obscenities into the realm of art. Small jokes and jabs at the seriousness and mythology that the art world has constructed around itself. Kagami's work questions the foundational belief that the basic materials become art by overcoming their materiality through the spiritual medium of the artist; paint can transcend its physicality. But low culture is degraded by its inherent abject nature. It cannot easily cross the threshold art has imposed upon between high and low culture, i.e. high and low class. The question is whether the objects Kagami amasses transcend their existence as obscene low-end products of their respective societies? Then again, must art be necessarily transcendental?

Scott Reeder's work operates within another grey area of art. Instead of assembling from the detritus of society like Kagami, Reeder disassembles a multiplicity of styles, ideas and tropes found within the tradition of art and reconfigures them on the canvas. Kagami uses a different type of math, maybe more geometric or literal and less algebraic. Reeder's "pasta paintings" are literally made with pasta used as a stencil and spray painted over. With this series of paintings the aesthetic is a reference to Italian Futurism - with the obvious pun intended. But here is Reeder's confrontation with the beautiful, and art generally. They are no doubt interesting by themselves apart from any allusion. There is at once a depth and false depth, since the humor is intentional and can be "laughed off" it is hard to decide where the joke ends and the "beauty" of the object can begin. Reeder's visual style brings to mind the ambiguous seriousness of the television show the *Colbert Report*. The guise of humor creates a social space for manipulating and confounding the normal codes of social discourse. Reeder's figurative brush paintings cull styles and references from all of art history. Playing with common subjects and techniques of painting he refashions and blends them into his own style and perverse humor. His pasta text paintings are the combination of rudimentary ideas and material simplicity. If the dumbness of the individual ideas combine to form a concept which is humorous, then the humorous concept combined with the minimal aesthetic of fettuccine font and monochromatic colors form a sort of algebraic equation.

Its kind of like a joke in the sense that if you have to explain it, its not funny.

In the back room Club Nutz will be open haphazardly. A project started by Scott Reeder, and his brother, Tyson Reeder, it is advertised as the "world's smallest comedy club." More on this soon...

Also during the opening Ken Kagami will do a special performance...