



NARWHAL ART PROJECTS PRESENTS

THE INVISIBLE COLLEGE

STEPHEN APPLEBY-BARR
SOLO EXHIBITION

OPENING RECEPTION:

Thurs. Oct 29th 2009
7-10pm

LOCATION:

NARWHAL ART PROJECTS
680 Queen St. W

EXHIBITION DATES:

October 29 - November 29, 2009

Emerging artist Stephen Appleby-Barr presents a solo show of portraits at Narwhal Art Projects. Entitled **The Invisible College**, this new body of oil paintings explores Appleby-Barr's profound involvement with the merits of portraiture. **The Invisible College** draws inspiration from an independent organization of philosophers whose purpose was to acquire knowledge through experimental investigation in 16th century Europe. Akin to the guild system, this group practice is exemplified by Hegelian collaboration: the free transfer of thought, expertise and tradition carried out without the establishment of designated facilities or institutional authority. Appleby-Barr explores the state of the personal disassociation with tradition and searches to find a connection with one's self and heritage. Working within a body of meticulously detailed oil portraits, Appleby-Barr conjures clues to uncovering the secrets of his own creation.

Continuing with the imagined legacies first constructed in the esoteric **Nortammag Archives**, allegoric images depicting varsity, academia, the occult and couture give lineage to an arcane society. Through the deliberate celebrity and obscurity of each character, Appleby-Barr speculates on the traditions of metaphorical, social and personal history. **The Invisible College** runs October 29-November 29 at Narwhal Art Projects. The opening reception is Thursday October 29 from 7-10pm. The artist will be in attendance.

About the Artist

Stephen Appleby-Barr is a painter and illustrator working in Toronto, Canada. A graduate of Sheridan College in 2004, Appleby-Barr began self-publishing under the imprint Tiger Press Books, with friend and fellow student, Lauchie Reid. This collaboration soon grew into the foundation of the five-man art collective known as Team Macho, with four solo exhibitions held at Magic Pony: **Friends 4 Life** (June 2005); **Team Macho is a Tough Man** (May 2006), **Fancy Action Now** (May-June 2007) and **Kitschy, Gay and Over in a Second** (Sept 2008). Appleby-Barr began exhibiting solo work at Magic Pony's **Ilavska** group show (Feb-March 2007) and **The Nortammag Archives** (April 2008) in which he unveiled his initial oil portraits. A medium intrinsically associated with historical painting, Appleby-Barr lends his portraits a subversive and subtle edge, combining references to antiquity with secret symbols and personal imaginings. Following successful shows in New York, Los Angeles and Amsterdam, **The Invisible College** will be his second solo exhibition in Toronto.

For more information, artwork viewing or to schedule a press preview:

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NARWHAL ART PROJECTS

THE INVISIBLE COLLEGE Stephen Appleby-Barr

Selected Artwork:



The Invisible College
Oil on canvas. 2009



Neon Rider
Oil on canvas. 2009



Punchy Cricket Bat
Oil on canvas. 2009



Punchy Pillbox
Oil on wood pillbox. Wood burned text.
2009



Under the Sign.
Oil on canvas. 2009



We walk on no path
Oil on canvas. 2009