



Yogi Not Yogi - The Messenger

David Ruhlman

January 21 - March 11, 2025

Alice R. Rogers and Target Galleries SJU

***Yogi Not Yogi* will feature paintings, found objects, sculptures and mixed media. Focusing on the idea of a Yogi and Yogi Bear, and the duality of these figures as outliers of belief.**

***The Messenger* is a series of works that engage with questions of healing and navigating grief. Some of the work considers the artist's mother, and her long illness and eventual death. Other pieces consider the ways objects and the creation of objects might serve to communicate with our dead.**

CONNECT

TOPICS AND THEMES THIS EXHIBITION ENGAGES WITH:

- Truth
- Pop Culture
- Belief
- Healing
- Enlightenment
- Knowledge
- Authority

ONLINE RESOURCES

- <https://davidruhlman.com/home.html>
- <https://www.csbsju.edu/fine-arts/visual-arts/>

ENGAGE

Philip K. Dick, a prolific science fiction author wrote, “*The symbols of the divine show up in our world initially at the trash stratum.*” Ruhlman pulled from this idea to create *Yogi Not Yogi*. Ruhlman said, “I keep returning to Philip K. Dick’s language of “the trash stratum” and about what we consider detritus and easily discard: pulp stories, cartoons, and B movies. But as Dick reminds us, these often contain “symbols of the divine”.

- What do you think Philip K. Dick meant by this quote?
- How is *Yogi Not Yogi* engaging with Dick’s concept of the “trash stratum”?
- What are objects, ideas or events that are common in your life, that have influenced you in a profound way?

The show *Yogi Not Yogi - The Messenger* is an exhibition in two parts. Both shown together, but two separate bodies of work, with their own ideas and inspiration.

- How do these two exhibitions engage with each other?
- How does repetition play into the works shown?
- What role does religion or spirituality take in this exhibition?

Ruhlman pulls from iconic imagery from European master artists to create his work. He is also quoted as saying, “I am endlessly fascinated by the outliers of religion and society. The strange journeys that members take to try to understand their most guarded secrets. Scientologist’s costly journey to find the origin story of Xenu. Mormons secret Masonic handshakes: QAnon, Flat Earthers and the stories are endless.

- *Yogi Not Yogi* is an attempt to understand this current era of disinformation, weirdening and feeling of deep unease. How do you see this journey of misinformation coming out in the works?
- How can visual art seek to find greater truths?