

KEN GRIMES

Messages from Outer Space

January 9 - February 1, 2003

Ricco Maresca Gallery presents an exhibition of recent works by outsider artist Ken Grimes. Consisting mainly of works of ink on paper and a selection of very large paintings, this body reflects Grimes' ongoing pursuit to represent his belief in the existence of life beyond earth.

Ken Grimes has made a lifestyle searching for the truth in regard to alien life, contact made from the cosmos and the nature of life on earth in relation to the possibility of interplanetary communication. Born in New York City on July 16, 1947, Grimes points out that his birthday with other significant world events, including the first moon landing and the first A-bomb detonated in Los Alamos, New Mexico, in 1943. At a very young age his family moved from Manhattan to Westchester County, a suburb of Tampa, Florida, and back to New York City again before settling, when Grimes was six years old, in Cheshire, Connecticut, where he still resides.

Grimes's grandfather, a semiprofessional magician and inventor, left a long-lasting impression on the young Grimes. The artist was first moved to deal with the paranormal, creatively, by an extraordinary circumstance. He discovered that the same time he was working at a public lottery in Cheshire, another Ken Grimes, sixty-two years old and living in Cheshire, England, won the largest soccer pool in history. This as well as many other coincidences have become part of what Ken refers to as the "Coincidence Board."

Since the Cheshire, England/ Connecticut coincidence in 1971, Grimes has diligently maintained a theme of alien intervention, space signals, synchronicities, and government cover-ups. He paints only in black and white, which he maintains is the most direct way of showing the contrast between truth and deception. These bold white-on-black graphics have become more iconographs than pictures. Sometimes a written statement will take up most of the piece, as if to remind us of the painting's true purpose.

An interactive DVD catalog will accompany the exhibition.