

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Souther Salazar *Today is the Day*
May 2 – 31, 2014



David B. Smith Gallery is delighted to present a site-specific work by artist Souther Salazar, titled *Today is the Day*. Featuring the incredible creativity, effortless dashes of humor and whimsy, and the imaginative world-building inherent to all of Souther Salazar's installation and 2D works, *Today is the Day* presents an epic battle playing out across a sublime alter-Alpine landscape. The narrative that Salazar has crafted for *Today is the Day* is a confrontation between the citizens of an otherworldly landscape and an immense leviathan. Salazar's protagonist challenges the monster rising from a twirling vortex from the back of a rearing steed, and the moment he depicts is *right* before they clash. The sprawling, romantic landscape Salazar presents is unfamiliar, yet the drama, as it plays out across the faces of the lilliputian citizens, in the moment of tension between defender and beast, recalls epic poetry and ancient protagonists such as Gilgamesh and Beowulf. While sparkling and somewhat gentled with levity, *Today is the Day* presents a familiar heroic trope: the hero called to greatness, in an vibrant, arresting, sculptural tour de force.

About Souther Salazar

Souther Salazar's artwork transports the viewer into a vibrant and endless world of overlapping narratives and dreamscapes—half-remembered, half-imagined places “where stories can develop and take on a life of their own.” Utilizing a wide variety of freely mixed media, found objects and layers of assemblage, his work evokes the wonders and imagination that many of us abandoned in childhood. Salazar often exhibits his collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures in dense and frenzied installations that encourage exploration and discovery. Salazar was born in 1978 in Hayward, CA. In the early 1990s, as a teenager in rural Oakdale, Salazar made photocopied cut-and-paste mini-comics and 'zines. After graduating from Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, he moved to Los Angeles where he lived and worked for ten years before re-locating to Portland OR, where he is currently based.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is Denver's venue for compelling contemporary art. The gallery specializes in the exhibition and sale of progressive contemporary artwork from emerging and mid-career international artists. Since its founding in 2007, the gallery has been committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions featuring work from some of today's most dynamic artists with growing international reputations. Through participation in leading art fairs and extensive media coverage, David B. Smith Gallery has grown a strong regional, national and international collector audience. *The New York Times* hailed the gallery as offering “an exciting contrast of cutting edge works.” The gallery is located on Wazee Street in the historic LoDo neighborhood of Denver. In addition to its curatorial program, David B. Smith Gallery maintains an active publishing division, which produces limited edition artist prints, monographs, and exhibition catalogues.