

• FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE •

Dave Eggers

October 16 – November 14, 2015
through December by appointment

Opening Reception: Friday, October 16, 7-9 pm
Free and open to the public

David B. Smith Gallery is pleased to announce the gallery's first exhibition of prints and paintings by Dave Eggers. Eggers' drawings and paintings feature strange, powerful images of animals, and plaintive text. Phrases such as "Don't Cry For This One He Went To Law School" accompany an anteater and "Courage: May It Be Common" appears next to a sprinting rabbit. The resulting effect is oddly spiritual, often profound, and sometimes even humorous. Eggers says of these works: "So what are these images of animals? I'll explain as much as I know.

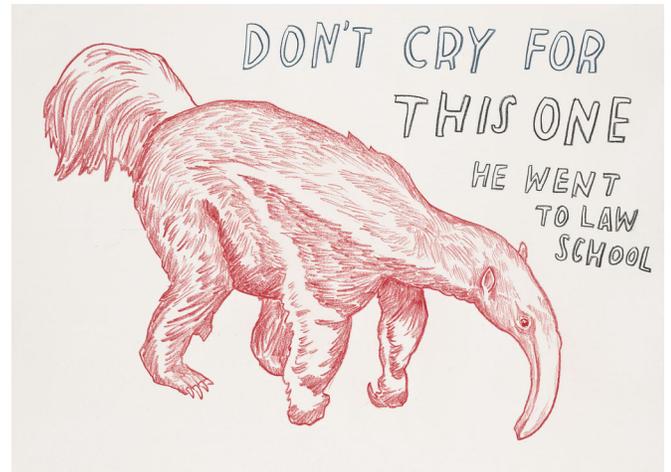
I was trained in the classical way of drawing — to be able to capture a likeness or shape in a realistic way. As a disciple of Manet and Caillebotte, for years I painted people in a representational way, usually in some slightly surreal or (I hoped) thought-provoking setting or situation. Then I stopped painting in earnest for the better part of fifteen years.

Recently, I've come back to drawing and painting, with animals as the subject. I honestly can't remember exactly when it started, but I began drawing bison from photos I'd taken in Alaska and Idaho, and once I'd finished a given drawing, it seemed incomplete without text — and the text that seemed most appropriate usually involved the bison in dialogue with its creator.

These bison-and-text paintings evolved to include an array of mammals, and an array of dialogues. Sometimes the animals question their existence or purpose. Sometimes a passage from the Old Testament surrounds them and in some way gives them a sense of mission. But usually there exists tension between the animal and an unseen God, and in all cases I try to bring out the soul of the animal in some way.

I can't disguise the fact that I enjoy making these pictures. More so than when I was a student, the process is loose and uncomplicated. You may guess that some works seemed to have been created in a fever, and you would be right.

I hope you enjoy looking at these pictures. They were made with great affection for their subjects and for their potential viewers. It means the world to me that you're looking at them."



About Dave Eggers

Dave Eggers is the author of ten books, including most recently *Your Fathers, Where Are They? And the Prophets, Do They Live Forever?*, *The Circle* and *A Hologram for the King*, which was a finalist for the 2012 National Book Award. He is the founder of McSweeney's, an independent publishing company based in San Francisco that produces books, a quarterly journal of new writing (*McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*), and a monthly magazine, *The Believer*. McSweeney's also publishes *Voice of Witness*, a nonprofit book series that uses oral history to illuminate human rights crises around the world. Eggers is the co-founder of 826 National, a network of eight tutoring centers around the country and ScholarMatch, a nonprofit organization designed to connect students with resources, schools and donors to make college possible. He lives in Northern California with his family. Eggers had his first solo show at Electric Works in San Francisco in 2010. Since then he has exhibited in solo exhibitions in New York, Miami and Nevada, where his solo exhibition *The Insufferable Throne of God* at the Nevada Museum of Art recently closed.

About David B. Smith Gallery

David B. Smith Gallery is committed to presenting intelligent and culturally relevant exhibitions in its Denver location, featuring the region's most important emerging talent alongside internationally recognized artists. Through its curatorial program, participation in art fairs, and extensive media coverage in publications such as *Art in America* and *ARTnews*, David B. Smith Gallery has cultivated 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 also maintains an active publishing division, which produces exhibition catalogues and editions.