

PRESS RELEASE

JOHN TOTTENHAM The Indifferent Sublime

June 14 – July 3

Artist's reception: Saturday, June 14: 6-8 PM

MALONEY FINE ART

2680 South La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90034
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www.maloneyfineart.com

After graduating with a degree in fine art from London's worst art school in the mid-80's, John Tottenham moved to the United States and stopped painting. He has resided in this country ever since. After many years of resistance, he finally sold out to the lucrative, fast-paced world of poetry. He is the author of 'The Inertia Variations', an epic cycle on the subject of work-avoidance, indolence, failure and related topics, and 'Antiepithalamia & Other Poems of Regret and Resentment', a sequence of mean-spirited love poems with particular respect paid to the institution of marriage. His acerbically entertaining essays about the art world and life in Los Angeles appear regularly in Artillery magazine. He is also an online aphorist, celebrated for his gnomic and anomic utterances on the worldwide web, and a renowned performer of stand-up poetry.

Tottenham also paints and draws. An old-fashioned pencil and paper / paint and brushes man - an educated outsider and academic primitive - he has produced hundreds of pen and ink drawings of desolate vernacular scenes, overlaid with darkly humorous text.

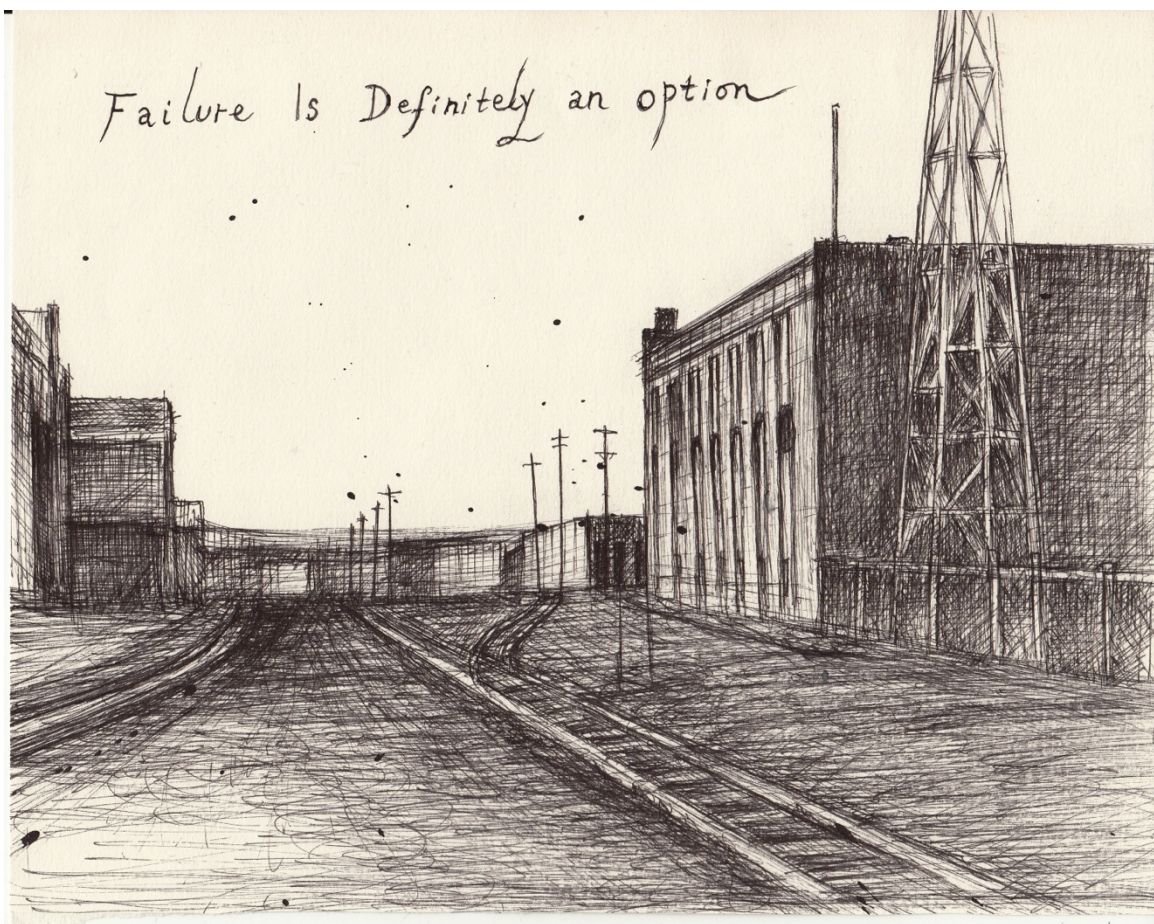
The centerpiece of the show is a remarkable group of 55 tiny, delicately-wrought, beautifully executed pencil drawings (mostly renderings of mugshots) of the female members of the Manson Family (not just the killers) assembled in a large frame. In these portraits Tottenham aims to recapture the qualities he found so haunting as a teenager trapped in the heart of the English countryside - an atmosphere thick with sex and dread that was intoxicating to a morbidly romantic adolescent whose voice still hadn't broken - and which were responsible for his formative impressions of Los Angeles. It is an attempt to realize as precisely as possible his most intimate impressions of nature - in this case, feminine nature - and an exercise in personal nostalgia.

Over the last few years Tottenham has been exhibiting at galleries in Los Angeles and New York. He has had solo shows at Las Cienegas Projects in November 2010 and at the Rosamund Felsen Gallery in July 2012.

John Tottenham lives and works in Los Angeles.

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John Tottenham, Failure is Definitely an Option, 2014, ink on paper, 10 x 8 inches

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John Tottenham, Dumping Grounds for Sorrow and Affection, 2014, ink on paper, 10 x 8 inches

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John Tottenham, I Love You Unfortunately, 2014, ink on paper, 10 x 8 inches

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