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DISCOVERIES IN DYSTOPIA: GREG BROTHERTON
OMA Parker Gallery, January 16 – March 19, 2010

Images of a dark dystopian future haunt the work of San Diego artist Greg Brotherton. Each meticulously detailed object fabricated with steel, teakwood and found objects ironically refers to a dangerous future society where life is distinguished by hard work, alienation, deprivation, suffering, and general unhappiness. Brotherton imagines the appearance of this dystopian future in his work by creating Kafkaesque figures in various isolated arrangements that depict the loneliness of a post-industrial world. “Meet the Artist” Greg Brotherton Saturday, February 6 at 2:00 p.m. and hear him discuss concepts and techniques behind his work, free with museum admission and complimentary for OMA members. The exhibition is on view January 16 through March 19, 2010.

The idea of “utopia” began in 1516 with Sir Thomas Moore’s novel of a mythical island inhabited by a peaceful society. The contrary philosophy, dystopia, is a 19th century term that depicts a future society where the condition of life suffers from poverty, war, terror, oppression, and malcontent. The miniature dystopian scenarios Brotherton creates allow him to comment on issues prevalent in contemporary society where people are chained to their desk and prisoners to a life of debt. Struggling in their alter worlds these characters function as metaphors for a society not too distant from our own. Contrary to the bleakness Brotherton has created he hopes to convey a sense of the heroic. Framed within a narrative of futility, his figures are at once insects in the machinery of oppression and silent heroes in their industrious, stoic, and curios discoveries.

The Parker Gallery is located on the 2nd level of Oceanside Museum of Art and is designed for special projects. For more information about “Meet the Artist” or other museum programs call the museum at 760.435.3720. Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. General admission is \$8, \$5 for seniors and free for students, military and their dependants. The museum is located at 704 Pier View Way in downtown Oceanside, within walking distance from the Oceanside Transit Center with Amtrak, Coaster, Sprinter and Metrolink stops. The museum Web site offers photo galleries of recent exhibitions as well as a calendar of coming events, www.oma-online.org.

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