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New Show at the Goss-Michael Foundation

By Frank Smith

In his new show at the Goss-Michael Foundation, British artist Nigel Cooke uses a highly personal vocabulary to depict a dark and melancholic world populated by dejected, self-absorbed, vaguely ominous presences that reminded me of the characters in the underground comics of the 60s and 70s.

Very articulate when talking about his work, Cooke spoke of constructing multiple levels of reality, and that “creating a work is alienating yourself from your own brain”; that his work is “about obsession and the non-importance of things”. This interior battle is very evident in this show, where one is able to follow the development over time of the disaffected vagrants occupying the oppressive landscape/mindscape created by the artist.

The paintings and sculptures, drawn from private collections, many in Dallas, as well as galleries in New York and London, are a commanding presence, demanding attention, and pull the viewer back and forth through the space. Well worth seeing, this powerful show might leave the viewer with the feeling that one has just made a journey through the bowels of the artist’s mind.

The show continues thru February 18, 2012 at the Goss-Michael Foundation at 1405 Turtle Creek Blvd. in the Dallas Design District. The gallery is open Tue-Fri 10am-6pm and Sat 11am-4pm. 214-696-0555



Experience, 2009,
Oil on Linen,
86.5 x 86.5 x 2in