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Mark Moore Gallery
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Tues – Sat, 11a – 6p

Jason Salavon ***Tragedy of the Commons***

Opening Reception: April 14th, 6-8p
On View April 14 – May 19th, 2012



For the second time, Mark Moore Gallery is pleased to announce a solo exhibition of new works by new media artist Jason Salavon. *Tragedy of the Commons* will showcase Salavon's distinctive mastery of self-scripted computer programs, which source and reconfigure cultural data into visual compositions. Abstracted into composite images and patterns, statistics and mass culture become conceptual diagrams for our social insatiability – representational not so much in figuration, but rather in discerning observation.

For this body of work, Salavon meticulously recorded one week's worth of programming on three major television stations: HBO, CNN, and ESPN. Composing the millions of resulting screen shots into frenetic blocks, stripes, and pixels of color, he typifies the habitual nature of television programming through a conceptual portrait of demand. Bands of color stretch across an otherwise variegated backdrop, indicating repeat transmissions, branding strategies, and scheduling patterns through a purposefully detached surveillance. Presented in a substantial scale, the teeming motifs become optical white noise – a flurry of input reminiscent of the media's perpetual besiegement of information. Additionally, Salavon will also present a stimulating new multimedia project indicative of mass viewership's gluttony. Drawing upon a real-time internet feed of current trending topics, Salavon's software generates a graphic cacophony of images and text related to contemporaneous cyber search keywords, tags, and posts. Like a frenzied collage, topical pictures and words coalesce into a collective stream of consciousness – making the work's content definitively ephemeral at any given second. In a vernacular similar to Nam June Paik and Martin M. Wattenberg, Salavon's works stage a social intervention through self-referential visualization, and create an intricate narrative of control, authority, demand, and subversion.

Born in 1970 in Indianapolis, Salavon obtained his MFA from Art Institute Chicago (IL). He has had solo exhibitions in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Columbus, Washington D.C. Houston, Seattle, Cologne, Seoul, London, Geneva, Basel and Paris, among others. Salavon's work has been acquired by the public collections of the International Center of Photography (NY), Whitney Museum of American Art (NY), Los Angeles County Museum of Art (CA), Museum of Fine Arts (TX), Museum of Contemporary Art (IL), the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NY), Columbus Museum of Art (OH) and others. Salavon lives and works in Chicago, IL.