

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2016

## **Artist Tom Torluemke Examines American Socio-Political Climate In *Symptoms* Exhibit**

CHICAGO, IL - Artist Tom Torluemke will be opening his exhibit titled, ***Symptoms*** featuring 36 satirical socio-political drawings and a site-specific installation piece examining societal ills and politics, Friday, August 26, 2016 at Firecat Projects, 2124 N. Damen Avenue, Chicago, IL, from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

The exhibition coincides with the release of Torluemke's Limited Edition book ***SYMPTOMS: Satirical Drawings by Tom Torluemke***. The 200-page, softbound book includes 90 images from the artist's blog, Torluemke's Daily Punch: a series of 215 drawings of daily impressions and ideas about our society and politics made into simple and powerful statements using acrylic paint marker on paper.

Excerpts from the book's foreword by David Detmer:

*"Torluemke's series, stands as one of the most comprehensive indictments of political injustice ever executed in a visual medium. The range of topics addressed is extraordinary, encompassing environmentalism, war, political corruption, class warfare, the media, the courts and the criminal justice system, poverty, and the banks, among other topics.*

*Despite this diversity of subjects, Torluemke's series achieves a high level of coherence by identifying a small number of interlocking fundamental issues underlying all of them: corporate greed, the prioritizing of profit over people and principle, the contempt that "the masters of mankind" have for the workers and the poor, and the indifference that the former group exhibits toward the suffering of the latter."*

*"His work eloquently records a sense of outrage. It stands as an act of vengeance, a powerful protest against the many crimes of the contemporary corporate class in America."*

The book is being published/produced in collaboration with Public Media Institute, with the foreword by David Detmer and an essay by Kevin Blake.

**About the artist:**

Tom Torluemke (born, Chicago, Illinois) is an Indiana based, contemporary American artist. His practice spans 30 years and includes works in painting, drawing, sculpture and installations in a variety of mediums. He is known for his powerful, no holds barred approach to subject matter relating to socio-political, ethical and humanistic themes.

Solo and group exhibition highlights include: *“Fearsome Fable – Tolerable Truth”* at the Hyde Park Art Center, Chicago; *“After Glow”* at The Chicago Cultural Center; *“The Inland See: Contemporary Art Around Lake Michigan”*, Western Michigan University, curated by James Yood; *“Critic’s Choice”* at Jan Cicero Gallery in Chicago; *“Present”* at the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago; *“In the Company of Strangers”* at the Brauer Museum of Art, Valparaiso, Indiana; *“Bounce”* at the South Bend Regional Museum of Art in South Bend, Indiana; *“Peace in the Arts”* Baihai International Peace Conference in San Francisco; “The Alabama Watercolor Society Exhibition” at the Birmingham Museum of Art; and the *“In Indiana”* series at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

In 2013, he was a featured speaker at TEDx PurdueU at Purdue University. He is a past winner of the Great Ideas Competition of the Arts Council of Indianapolis with his project *“Light The Way”* and a recipient of the Efroymsen Contemporary Arts Fellowship (Central Indiana Community Foundation).

**About the collaborators:**

Public Media Institute - PMI is a non-profit 501(c) 3, community based, art & culture organization located in the neighborhood of Bridgeport in the city of Chicago. Their mission is to create, incubate and sustain innovative cultural programming through the production of socially engaged projects, festivals, spaces, exhibitions, and media.

David Detmer is Professor of Philosophy at Purdue University Northwest. He is the author of five books: *Freedom as a Value* (1988), *Challenging Postmodernism: Philosophy and the*

Politics of Truth (2003), Sartre Explained (2008), Phenomenology Explained (2013), and Zinnophobia: The Battle Over History in Education, Politics, and Scholarship, (forthcoming).

Kevin Blake is an artist and writer working in Chicago, IL. He holds a BFA and MA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago as well as an MFA from the Art Institute of Boston at Lesley University. Kevin's writing has appeared in such publications as Art and Beyond, Bad at Sports, New City, and The Painter's Table.

**Exhibit Information:**

**Opening Reception and Book Release:** Friday, August 26, 2016 from 7:00 – 10:00 p.m.

**Exhibit Dates:** August 26 – September 24, 2016

**Location:** Firecat Projects, 2124 N. Damen Avenue Chicago, IL

**Gallery Hours:** Monday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**For additional information:**

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