

# ESOPUS SPACE

THE ESOPUS FOUNDATION LTD.

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## “ALEXANDER IEZZI: THIS IS NOWHERE”

**February 8 – March 15, 2011**

**Opening reception: Tuesday, February 8th, 6–8 p.m.**

New York, NY (January 17, 2011): Esopus Space is pleased to announce “This Is Nowhere,” an exhibition of recent work by Alexander Iezzi. The show, which represents the New York–based artist’s solo debut, will run from February 8th to March 15th. An opening reception is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8th, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Alexander Iezzi began collecting books of war photography when he was a teenager. “I was kind of obsessed with them, studying their images over and over,” he recalls. He found that the more of these books he came across, the more it struck him how the endless repetition of certain types of images, whether from World War II, Vietnam, or even the Gulf War, seemed to reflect an inability on the part of humanity to learn from history. After Iezzi’s older brother returned from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan several years ago, the artist started removing specific photo-reproductions from these books (as well as magazines like *Life*) and drawing on them with gouache and ink. “I wanted to respond to them in some way,” he says. “The idea was to tell the story of a mind going to war.”

Iezzi has overlaid some of the images with original texts, as well as with phrases culled from sources ranging from New Wave song lyrics to lines from Greek tragedies. He has embellished others with simple lines or shapes, connecting or emphasizing particular elements within the sourced image. These marks “overwrite” the historical specificity of these photographs with Iezzi’s subjective, and deeply resonant, interpretations of them. Roland Barthes wrote famously in *Camera Lucida* about a viewer’s intense emotional identification with a certain detail of a photograph (the *punctum*): “Whether or not it is triggered, it is an addition: it is what I add to the photograph and *what is nonetheless already there.*” Iezzi’s gestures—at times ironic, at times desperately frank—in essence materialize the *punctum*, and in doing so universalize the misery, desolation, and disorientation engendered by all wars.

*About the artist:* Alexander Iezzi was born in Tucson, AZ, and currently resides in Brooklyn, NY. He will graduate from Parsons The New School for Design in May 2011. Iezzi is the drummer for Dream Diary, a Brooklyn-based band that contributed to the *Esopus 14: Artists* CD, and whose first album will be released on Kanine Records this winter.

Esopus Space is an exhibition and performance venue operated by the [Esopus Foundation Ltd.](#), a nonprofit organization which also publishes [Esopus](#) magazine. It is open to the public Mondays from 12 to 8pm, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12–5pm, and always by appointment. For more information, please visit the Esopus Space [website](#), send email inquiries to [space@esopusfoundation.org](mailto:space@esopusfoundation.org), or call Tod Lippy at 212-473-0919.

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