

# Theodore

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## Oliver Wasow Terminal Lucidity



**April 12 - May 11, 2024**

**Reception: Friday, April 12, 6 to 8 pm**

Gallery hours Thursday–Saturday 12-6 pm

Door/Elevator buzzer #610

Theodore is pleased to present an exhibition of a large group of conjured landscapes by Oliver Wasow.

The phenomenon of terminal lucidity occurs in the period immediately preceding death, when the dying person experiences what has been described as a kind of clarity and euphoria. In the face of death's terror, nature is providing a sublime exit strategy, a dose of beauty and perhaps even hope as life fades to black.

The work in this exhibition hopes to function in a similar way, finding beauty in the dystopian collapse of our planet's ecosystem while perhaps reminding us that this is a planet worth saving. These pictures depict the 'golden hour' of twilight, that magical time before darkness when the truth is partly visible but is often hallucinatory and hard to discern. Terminal Lucidity for a planet on the brink.

These pictures, made in part by utilizing recent developments in AI-Assisted imaging software, envision a world scarred over by the overuse of natural resources and information technologies. While not ignoring the potential ethical problems posed by AI, Wasow is drawn to the ways in which the medium builds on the already democratic nature of photography. More importantly, the use of the tool is a continuation of his on-going interest in post production processes that extend the aesthetic boundaries of lens-based photography. AI lends itself well to creating the kinds of images that synthesize a variety of seemingly contradictory forces: nature and culture, the past and the future, painting and photography, and the opposition that may define art-making itself, fiction and reality.

Oliver Wasow lives and works in Rhinebeck, NY. He received a BA from Hunter College and a Master's Degree from the Transart Institute in Austria. Wasow has had many one person exhibitions, including shows at Theodore:Art, Josh Baer Gallery, Janet Borden Gallery, Tom Solomon Gallery in Los Angeles, South Eastern Center for Contemporary Art in North Carolina, and the Hilliard Museum in Lafayette, LA. His work has been exhibited in many national and international group shows, such as 'Manipulated Photography Before Photoshop,' at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, 'Image World,' at the Whitney Museum of Art in NYC, and 'The Photography of Invention,' at the National Gallery of Art in Washington. His photographs have been acquired by prominent private and public collections, including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art in New York City, The Mint Museum in Charlotte, NC and The Milwaukee Art Museum.

For images and information, please contact Stephanie Theodore at [theodoreart@gmail.com](mailto:theodoreart@gmail.com)