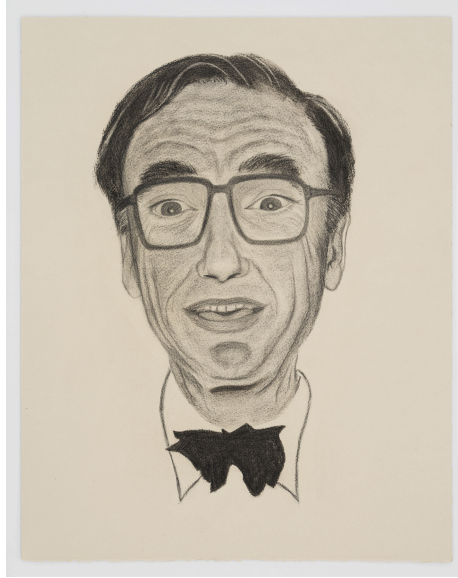


# Theodore

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## Michelle Vaughan Daddy Issues

September 6 – October 12, 2024

Reception Friday September 6, 5-8 pm  
Gallery hours Thursday–Saturday 12-6 pm  
Door/Elevator buzzer #610

Theodore is pleased to present “Daddy Issues,” an exhibition of new work by Michelle Vaughan. This is her fifth solo show with the gallery.

This body of work is the manifestation of a decade-long obsession with the life and accomplishments of Rupert Murdoch.

Rupert Murdoch has dominated newspapers globally for almost 70 years and had unprecedented access to political power. Vaughan collected and examined photographs of Murdoch throughout his life, and produced charcoal drawings based on these found images to investigate his core motivation. Vaughan compiled research and interviewed a psychotherapist as a proxy for her subject. The artist concluded that it all began with his father, Sir Keith Murdoch. This installation of charcoal drawings, newspaper prints and neon signage gets to the essence of a man who has helped shape – and profited from – the erosion of contemporary democracy.

Vaughan worked with charcoal to reflect illustrations and portraiture found in newspapers of the 20th century, utilizing an exaggerated style used by artists like Norman Rockwell as they portrayed their subjects during the glory days of newspaper publishing. Charcoal gives the artist infinite range, from a minimal, light touch to a deep vastness of black. Vaughan reproduced images of her drawings as printed half-tones, invoking the print methodology of newspapers of old, paired with drawn titles of News Corp's newspapers still in production. These pages become separate, stacked sheets which sit on cardboard file boxes. The title piece becomes the headline for this deep dive into a controversial figure.

Michelle Vaughan received her BFA at UCLA. Her art practice focuses on political or historical subjects. She examines topics and then deconstructs and reinterprets the material through work in a variety of media — drawing, installation, letterpress printing, among others. Vaughan has had solo shows at Dumbo Art Center and the South Street Seaport, where she was awarded fiscal sponsorship from the New York Foundation of the Arts for Sea Warriors: A Public Art Project, in 2009. During the summer of 2018, her ongoing project "Generations," a deep dive into the degeneration by inbreeding of the Spanish Habsburgs, was shown in solo exhibitions at Galería Trinta and the Universidade Santiago de Compostela in Spain. She is currently working on a small art book about the Habsburgs, to be published in Barcelona. Vaughan was born in Anaheim, California and lives in New York City.

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