Guy C. Corriero
*Objects, People, Places*

September 7 – October 19, 2014
Opening Reception: Sunday September 7, 2014 6-8 p.m.

JUNIOR PROJECTS is pleased to present “Objects, People, Places”, a solo exhibition of new paintings and sculpture by Guy C. Corriero. This is the artist’s first solo show at the gallery.

Guy C. Corriero’s paintings are composed of twenty or more applications of traditionally made gesso atop wooden planks finished with hand wrought ‘edges,’ or atop fiberglass cast from the wooden planks. For Corriero, the applied edges create a framing device and also give context to the manipulated surfaces, transforming them into paintings and quasi-sculptural objects, thereby blurring the line between these typically mutually exclusive categories. The nature of his process creates imperfections on the surface of his paintings much the way residual wax accumulates atop a surfboard with each use and subsequent re-waxing. In this way his paintings take on a distinctly human quality, acquiring blemishes and physical distortions over time.

Optically, the multitudinous layers of gesso produce a muted diaphanous glaze. The subtle color palette, composed entirely of stained gesso and consisting of blanched blues, yellows, and grays, reveals its complexity through prolonged observation. The colors reference the artist’s personal experiences of places and landscapes, such as the shore along the New York coast where he was raised. Color literally emanates from within each ghost-like work, producing a unique, halcyon glow. Traditional gesso, or Italian for ‘chalk,’ was popularized during the Medieval and Renaissance periods and used as an absorbent primer in preparing wooden panels and canvases for oil painting. Corriero refines this preparatory process into a means to an end, using gesso as his sole painting medium.

The slightly raised bumps of Corriero’s rectilinear paintings morph into wild, handcrafted protuberances in his fired clay sculptures. Corriero aggressively manipulates the clay with his hands. Here the glazing is denser and the process more emphatic, resulting in saturated color. Negotiating the space between abstraction and figuration, his sculptures, like his paintings, allude to the land, and to people he’s met, observed, and assigned to memory. These disorienting sculptures have no distinct front, back, or sides. They are both coming and going, inviting the viewer to experience the work from all perspectives.

Guy C. Corriero was born in New York in 1960. He attended the School of the Visual Arts, New York where he received his BFA and MFA. His work has been exhibited domestically and abroad since the early 1990s. Corriero lives in New York City and works in Brooklyn.

Junior Projects is located at 139 Norfolk Street, one block east of Essex Street between Rivington and Stanton Streets. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, from 11am to 6pm, and by appointment. For more information or press materials, please contact Lance Goldsmith at lance@juniorprojects.com or 212-228-8045.