

For Immediate Release  
12/19/2011  
San Francisco, CA

**Varnish Fine Art**  
presents



**Mind Spring:**  
Chuck Sperry • Chris Shaw • Ron Donovan  
New Paintings • Installations • Limited Silkscreen Editions



***Mind Spring* Hand Pulled Print on Panel by Chuck Sperry 2011**

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 14, 2012, 4pm to 7pm  
Show on view from January 14 to February 18, 2012

Lending rock and alternative music a form of visual expression, in sync with their urban environments, the artists Chuck Sperry, Chris Shaw, and Ron Donovan embrace, alter, re-assign or retain meaning, re-contextualize the image, not just as the image, but the image as the medium. The image is their medium, and the subject emerges and is used purposely, irreverently, or reverently, engaging viewers - asking them to stop, look and listen.

Chuck Sperry uses silkscreen to forge intricate textures and energetic color to create iconographic images that transform ephemeral events and experiences by creating a lexicon of shared cultural visual memory. In his piece ***Mind Spring***, Sperry creates an icon of the Worldwide Occupy Movement and it's antecedent in the Arab Spring. The figure wreathed in blooming spring flowers is a

representation of the surprising enlightened humanism, the opening mind, the broadened socio-political possibilities which has swept the world in 2011.

Chuck Sperry lives in the Haight-Ashbury district of San Francisco, where he's made his particular style of rock poster designs for over 15 years. Together with Ron Donovan he operates the Firehouse Kustom Rockart Company, a silkscreen print studio, located in Oakland. Sperry loves to travel - touring Europe annually - making poster shows from Bristol to Belgrade (visited Belgrade at the invitation of The Cultural Minster of Serbia). His tutelage has inspired a new generation of rock poster and silkscreen artists worldwide, including, Alexandre D'Huy who apprenticed from The Beaux-arts of Paris, Malleus Rock Art Lab of Italy, and The British Rock Artists Group of The UK. Recently he has brought his rock artistry to projects for Goldenvoice, Live Nation, Virgin Megastore, Guitar Center, Random House, Harper Collins, Harvard University Press, Nylon, and Wired. Released in early 2009, the documentary film "American Artifact" prominently features Chuck Sperry.

"Donovan, Shaw and Sperry have made their living creating expressive contemporary prints and posters for both the collector and the general public whose capacity for images is not just at its maximum, but teetering on overload. Dedication to their craft has rewarded them with a mastery of color theory, composition and print design that creates a language that can be seen, perhaps almost heard, amidst a visually competitive, urban environment. Never known for following the consensus of any art establishment, these three have a strict loyalty to their craft, and have become leading innovators of the rock poster art form. Their suspicion and disdain for mainstream American politics often characterizes their approach to making art. With a sincere dedication to a broad public audience, they reflect a social consciousness and draw much from the immediate urban environment." - Renee de Cossio, curator SFMOMA

### **About Varnish Fine Art**

Jen Rogers and Kerri Stephens believe that Art makes the world a better place. Since founding Varnish Fine Art in 2003, the gallery has become known for showing provocative and skillfully executed contemporary artwork. True to its original mission, Varnish Fine Art continues to be a lively and vital part of the Yerba Buena Arts District in downtown San Francisco.

### **Media Opportunities**

Interview with Chuck Sperry, Chris Shaw, and Ron Donovan.

Interview with Varnish Fine Art co-owners Kerri Stephens and Jen Rogers.

High-resolution images available upon request.

#### Varnish Fine Art

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