

## RUSSELL/PROJECTS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CHARLES MCGILL, “BAGGAGE”—March 17 to April 18th, 2010**

**Opening Reception with the Artist**, Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Free Artist Talk at Russell/Projects**, Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm.

**“Fourth Friday” Reception**, Friday, March 26<sup>th</sup> 7:00 to 10:00 pm

**Russell/Projects** is pleased to present **Charles McGill: *Baggage***. The golf-inspired theme of the exhibition is underscored by McGill’s unique choice of ‘canvas’—eighteen found golf bags, all highlights from the artist’s *Former Black Militant Golf and Country Club Artifacts* body of work.

McGill transforms each golf bag from found object into art object by intricately applying thumbnail-size images and text onto the surface of each bag in delicate quilt-like patterns, creating complex, intense, and often explicit thematic narratives. Each work tells a specific story, yet gives room for the viewer to interpret the imagery as they wish, based upon their own life experiences. The result is work that is both beautiful and thought provoking.

As an avid golfer, the artist realized that the game was starting to influence his work and in turn he saw the action of playing golf itself as creative. While exploring his fascination with the game of golf, McGill merged this passion with a conceptual understanding of the found object and the recycling of random internet imagery. Joe Lewis best captures the essence of McGill’s *oeuvre*, writing in *Art In America*: “The work discovers new conceptual mass in the well-worn territories of race and representation.”

The anthropomorphic quality of the golf bags themselves is an important facet to the work. McGill sees the golf bag as “found canvas”, with potential to act as both object and subject. Displayed as “high art” on pedestals for this exhibition, the bags posit as headless torsos, reminiscent of African, Greek and Roman sculptures displayed in Museums.

Titles such as “Saga of Zulu Lulu”, and “Gun and Laser Bag”, underscore McGill’s interest in metaphors for a larger discussion of racism and social differences. Several golf bags, including “Saga of the Three Kings” (2007) and “Tiger Woods” (2007) deal directly with two main influences on the African-American experience of political activism and the sport of golf – Malcolm X and Tiger Woods. McGill’s succeeds in creating his own unique palette, one which conflates ethnicity, identity and socio-political dialogue in a visually and historically powerful manner.

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**About the Artist:** Charles McGill attended school at School of Visual Arts and The Maryland Institute College of Art. The artist lives and works in Manhattan and New Rochelle, NY. Artist website: [www.artnegro.com](http://www.artnegro.com).

**For images or additional information**, please contact **Russell/Projects**

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Please visit [www.russellprojects.com](http://www.russellprojects.com) for more information on the artist and the gallery.