

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY

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PRESS RELEASE

Alexander Kroll

Imaginary

May 22 – June 28, 2014

Opening Reception

Thursday, May 22nd, 6-8 pm

Left: "Concept Album" 2014

Flashe, acrylic, urethane on canvas
84" x 96"

Gallery hours:

Wednesday - Saturday 11:00am - 5:00pm

Images are available upon request



James Harris Gallery is pleased to present our fourth exhibition of new work by Alexander Kroll. The exhibition will occupy the gallery space in its entirety and will include both large and small scale painting along with works on paper. Kroll considers painting as a dynamic intercourse between artist, object, and viewer. The exhibition titled "Imaginary" is seen as a commentary on the creative process of abstraction and how it demonstrates a dialogue about actual and fictive spaces.

The three large scale paintings (each measuring 84" x 96") present a collision of ideas at the core of Kroll's artistic practice; a presentation of the canvas where events occur to investigate the poetics of pictorial space. For the artist, revealing the act of painting is important, allowing the viewers to see through layers and "into" the painting process. Both his painting and works on paper are a merging of gesture and architecture, where the fluidity of one balances the structure of the other.

The support structure for the painted surface is important for the artist; areas of raw canvas are often left exposed to ignite a conversation between the tactility and energy of the painted gesture and the conceptual preconditions of making a painting. In all three large works, Kroll has used thinned paint to saturate and stain the canvas to meld the viscous nature of the medium with the warp and weft of the canvas. The artist creates a narrative of experience through layers of painting—hard edge shapes, drawn lines, illusionistic gradients, and expressive brushwork in arresting colors— which activate and create movement throughout the composition.

Kroll refers to himself as a "lifelong student of the technology of painting," continuously exploring the creative process and allowing the paint in each of his works to push outwards. This exploratory push and pull is featured in the work "Concept Album." In this piece, Kroll has created an emotionally activated scene in which thinned black washes stain the canvas, carefully choreographed broad strokes of white paint along with arcing calligraphic lines emanate out from

the center, while deep blue, red and yellow brushwork anchors the painted surface in a push and pull of horizontal movement.

This exhibition shows Kroll has progressed into more complex strategies of abstraction. Kroll's paintings and works on paper articulate a consciousness and awareness of perception and expression of the experience of painting. The question of painting and how paint functions drives the core of Kroll's aesthetic practice in which each work confounds expectations and provokes another painting and a new set of challenges. Painting thus, for the artist, is a conversation in which one mark leads to the next; and one completed work leads to another.

Alexander Kroll currently has a show of painting on canvas at the Fredric Snitzer Gallery in Miami, Florida. His work has been exhibited at CB1 Gallery (Los Angeles, CA), ACME, (Los Angeles, CA), Lincoln Center (New York, NY), Torrance Art Museum, (Torrance, CA), Jessica Silverman Gallery, (San Francisco, CA), The UCLA New Wight Gallery (Los Angeles, CA), The Ben Maltz Gallery at Otis College of Art and Design (Los Angeles, CA), The Armory Center for the Arts (Pasadena, CA) and City Wide Open Studios, (New Haven, CT). Kroll received his BA from Yale University followed by MA from Otis College of Art and Design in 2008. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles, California.