

Michael Williams

Puzzle Paintings

October 29 – 27 November 2010

Artist's Reception:

Friday, 29 October, 6-9p

ltd los angeles is pleased to announce *Puzzle Paintings*, the first Los Angeles solo exhibition by painter Michael Williams.

For his Los Angeles debut, Michael Williams has created a suite of twelve paintings that are a departure from his trademark New England surrealist pictorial style. These works are more abstract, their methodology rooted in Williams' habit of playing solitary games. Williams sets up his painting production like a game by planning the image, implementing rules and demarcating the picture plane into subsections. Within this established framework, Williams' process unspools by using chance, failure and mistakes as a jumping point for improvisation, self-exploration and creative freedom. As a result, there are often two or three pictorial options, moods or genres offered within each work, and it is this collision of painted ideas, devoid of any immediate "message" that makes this body of work so intriguing.

To prepare an image for painting, Williams begins by photocopying a drawing he likes and cutting shapes out of the photocopy so that about half of the image remains and half is taken away. He then pastes that onto a new piece of paper and redraws the missing parts, not as they were before but as if seen through floating globs of oil, distorting the shapes. This new drawing is then transferred to the canvas including mistakes and signs of process. The lines and shapes become a framework for expressive and investigatory painting.

"There is a sort of obsessive compulsion to this mode of working. Almost procrastinatory. And it shares this trait with the compulsion of solitaire, playing game after game until you win... But the objective of all of those time-sucking solitaire games is dull and quantifiable, while the objective in these paintings is not immediately known to me... and sometimes I think that if I can make better paintings, that by proxy I'll become a better person."

Michael Williams was born in 1978 in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. He earned his BFA from Washington University in 2000. He has been featured internationally and recent solo exhibitions include *Uncle Big*, CANADA (New York); *Fried Paint*, Galleri Christina Wilson (Copenhagen); and *If God Could Draw*, The Green Gallery (Milwaukee). Williams lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Gallery hours are Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 am – 5:00 pm and by appointment.

For additional information, please contact Shirley Morales.

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