

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Scott Olson

Upstairs: Xavier Cha VoiceDoor

April 5th thru May 10th, 2008

Opens Saturday, April 5th from 6-8 pm

Ohio-based artist Scott Olson presents his first solo show of diminutive abstract paintings in the downstairs gallery. His fussy curiosities display, at first, an almost comic classicism, hewing close to a third generation academic style. A mishmash of lessons learned and plateaus reached by household names generations ago— Braque's fractured rigor, Malevich's mystical approach to Geometric Abstraction, and by a contemporary artist, as with Tomma Abts' graceful blankets of order.

These and other now iconic approaches to abstraction are recombined and repurposed here, channeled through Olson's learned mind and capable hand. Frontloading in the library, with dense tracts of theoretical prose from Dada through to the 1970's French Supports/Surfaces movement, Olson freights his paintings with histories pure and diluted, original and derivative.

Olson's varied techniques--layering, taping, rubbing, scumbling, obliterating, incising, combing, varnishing-- feel like pure painting unburdened by the accomplishments of his predecessors.

They appear compositionally satisfying and attractive (like most abstraction leached of its political intent or impact) lovingly generated stand-ins for Painting itself. No matter how laboriously concocted, they are surrogates in the Alan McCollum vein. The paintings are experimental yet mannered--self-conscious in their mindlessness since all the knowing has preceded the first brushstroke.

Scott Olson received his BFA from Alfred University in 1998. In 2002 he completed a two-year residency at the Center for Contemporary Art in Kitakyushu, Japan. He is currently working towards his MFA in painting at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. Olson has been included in group exhibitions and performances at: Gavin Brown's Passerby, New York; Center for Contemporary Art, Kitakyushu, Japan; Museum fuer angewandte Kunst, Vienna, Austria; Hallwalls Contemporary Art Center, Buffalo. He also produced an audio CD, *Liam Gillick Meets Scott Olson* in Japan on the Whatness label in 2002. This is Olson's first solo exhibition at Taxter & Spengemann. In the fall of 2006 he exhibited a suite of paintings in the upstairs gallery. Olson will make his Los Angeles solo debut at Overduin and Kite gallery in June 2008.

OVER

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Xavier Cha VoiceDoor
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New York based artist Xavier Cha presents *VoiceDoor* (2008) a performance and video piece on view in the upstairs gallery.

Last year Cha was an artist in residence at the Cité des Arts, as part of the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council's Paris residency. Living down the hall from Cha was an opera singer, who dutifully practiced her scales every day, projecting her nimble vocal chords throughout the halls of the dormitory. Here Cha recreates this phenomenon from within the closed confines of the upstairs gallery's office. A frosted glass door is presented to visitors opposite a video projection of a mysterious underground cave. The performer's image flickers in shadow behind the door, but her voice sculpts and defines her presence via absence to a hauntingly psychological affect

Performance Schedule

Opening night 6-8

April 8 & 9 4:00-6:00
April 10-12 3:00-5:00
April 15 4:00-6:00
April 16-19 3:00-5:00
April 22-24 4:00-6:00
April 25 & 26 3:00-5:00
April 29 & 30 4:00-6:00
May 1-3 3:00-5:00
May 6-10 3:00-5:00

Please confirm performance time as they may change from day to day

Xavier Cha was born in 1980 in Los Angeles, CA. She earned her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2002 and her MFA from the University of California Los Angeles, in 2004. Solo exhibitions include: *Holiday Cruise*, Taxter & Spengemann, New York; and *Cossack's Dance*, In Practice Project Series at Sculpture Center, Long Island City, NY. Group exhibitions include: *Residents*, curated by the City of Paris, Espace EDF Electra, Paris, France; *One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now*, Asia Society, New York, NY, Houston Art Museum, Houston, TX, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkely, CA, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA, Honolulu Academy of the Arts, Honolulu, HI; *Makers*, Taxter & Spengemann, New York, NY; and *if you think you see just with your eyes...*, Peres Projects, Los Angeles, CA