

For Immediate Release:

Jack Featherly

27 April through 29 May 1999

Team Gallery will present a solo exhibition of new paintings by Jack Featherly from 27 April through 29 May 1999. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Since his first solo exhibition — eight years ago at Rena Bransten Gallery in San Francisco — Jack Featherly's paintings have either been filling up or emptying out. His last one-man show at Team found Featherly at his most minimal, but this latest body of work sees him complicating his pictures, creating new possibilities for experimentation.

Gone are the NASCAR racing stripes, bold branding swoops, and corporate chevrons that held his color-field pastiches in check, keeping the embarrassment of transcendence from spilling off the canvas. They have instead been replaced with a more aggressive spatial invention: from one single vanishing point, pulsating color expands outward towards the viewer in widening bands. These emanations, rendered with hard edges, are superimposed over misty abstractions. This is the formal parameter behind each of Featherly's new pictures. Pictorially, one might call them "ray" paintings.

But, for all the lip-service paid to modernism's presence in Featherly's work, these are hardly paintings that venerate the past. They possess a sci-fi determination, a proposal of a possible future for the exhausted practice of abstraction. Spatially complex, each of these paintings functions differently within the tight parameters the artist had initially imposed. The emanations are sometimes frontal, sometimes twisted on their axis. They sometimes appear with complicating borders that deny the very dimensionality the painting appears to want to conjure up. Additionally, at various points, the bands of color will give the appearance of transparency, further complicating the figure/ground relationship. And the color-field backgrounds, which once dominated the entire picture plane, fail to fill the canvas, hemmed in by graphical interventions.

Featherly's pictures have always been a perfected painterly product made to compete with the most desirable of our culture's consumerist output. Signpainting his way through Albers, Kelly, and Rothko, he uses the hyper-signification of abstraction to create a multi-layered response that is both non-objective and familiar, logoizing "greatest hits" from the collection of the Museum of Modern Art. Featherly continues to flip from style to style, and image to image, with a relentless, voracious curiosity. These pictures, which differ from each other radically in temperament, are held together by their consummate technique, as well as an excruciatingly accurate formal sensibility. Dizzy with beauty and stoned on excess, Featherly negotiates with the picture plane like a divorce lawyer going in for the kill.

Featherly's work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *TimeOut New York*, *Art in America*, and numerous others. This is his second solo exhibition at Team.

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs please call 212 279 9219.