



Dan Kopp | Jay Davis

July 11 - September 6, 2008

Opening reception: Friday, July 11, 2008; 6-8 pm

CTRL gallery is pleased to present solo exhibitions of new works by Dan Kopp and Jay Davis.

Dan Kopp was included in CTRL gallery's inaugural exhibition in April 2007 and now returns to Houston with an exciting new body of work. With a cinematic sensibility, Kopp depicts moments of high drama in the life of a painter, beginning with the shamanistic act of making a painting. A 'painter-chief' in ceremonial head-dress is embedded in the highly charged atmosphere of the studio. Swallowed up by the process, the painter is almost indecipherable from his surroundings. The next image depicts the artist, now more corporeal, clutching the finished painting, reluctantly delivering it to the outside world. His head appears to have exploded: Decimated, perhaps as a natural result of the bringing forth of the image. In a third painting the artist surrenders himself as he finally installs the painting on a wall for viewing. Also on view are a series of smaller works, compelling jewel like abstractions, seemingly taken right out of the larger narrative paintings and placed on the gallery walls. Kopp will also exhibit several new gouache on paper paintings, continuing his exploration of the fertile ground that lies between figuration and abstraction.

Dan Kopp lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. His work was included in Greater New York 2005, at MoMA's P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center. He has exhibited widely, including solo exhibitions at Shoshana Wayne Gallery, LA, Bravin Lee Programs, NYC and BucketRider Gallery, Chicago. Kopp studied painting at the Cleveland Art Institute, the Lacoste School of Art in Lacoste, France and at the Skowhegan School for Painting and Sculpture.

In **Jay Davis'** paintings, tabulated arrangements of foliage and everyday objects are paired with prismatic abstraction, motifs of psychedelia, and spatial incongruities. In composing these arrangements, Davis flirts with the idea of pareidolia, a psychological term for the mind's obsession with finding patterns in essentially random objects. His egalitarian approach to surface and imagery lends an interactive dimension to his intricate paintings. They remain open and the objects interchangeable as units or points of reference within a mutable narrative. Though all completed in 2007-2008, several of the paintings in this exhibition were begun up to five years ago and for one reason or another were never brought to completion until now. This solo exhibition, Davis' first in Texas, can be seen as a stratification of impulses and tendencies in the past five years of the artist's career. Layers of the recent past are preserved and new layers are added as Davis continues his exploration for alternative sources of visual energy.

Jay Davis has had solo exhibitions at Mary Boone Gallery, New York, Shoshana Wayne Gallery, LA, BucketRider Gallery, Chicago and Stefan Stux Gallery, New York. Group exhibitions venues include Inman Gallery, Houston, Exit Art, NYC and Muller/DeChiara Gallery, Berlin. Davis received his BFA from the Ringling School of Art and Design, Sarasota, FL. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

CTRL is located at 3907 Main Street in Midtown Houston.
Gallery hours are Tues - Sat, 10am - 6pm. For more information, please
contact the gallery at 713-523-CTRL(2875) or info@ctrlgallery.com