

Press release

11 September - 24 October 2015

Opening preview: Friday 11 September 2015, 11 – 20 h

Office Baroque has the pleasure to present the first individual exhibition of Michael Rey at the gallery.

Michael Rey makes monochromatic wall works with panels entirely surfaced in plasticine clay and oil paint. At the most fundamental level, these voluptuous monochromes operate at the shifting intersections of drawing, painting, and sculpture. By applying a uniform color to the surface of each shape, Rey draws attention to the arbitrary contours that circumscribe them and that are the product of an intense involvement with drawing, which he incessantly and obsessively practices. The shapes themselves conjure all manner of cartoony objects: one can think of them as a Guston-ian inventory of the icon-saturated Internet era or as a vernacularization of minimalism that recalls Stuart Davis' transfiguration of synthetic cubism. Yet, despite the sense of déjà vu that Rey's forms can provoke, their concrete antecedents remain always unlocatable, hinting that what they strive to embody is something akin to Freud's "lost object". Moreover, Rey's seemingly fleshy objects (the fleshiness achieved not by the "natural" skinning of oil paint but by Rey's application of a layer of Plasticine underneath the paint) always come with precise holes and apertures cut into them that reveal an empty interiority rather than the fullness (of substance or meaning) that one might want to impute to them.

The hybridity that is characteristic of Rey's work recurs on multiple levels. Though unapologetically concerned with form, the work eschews any opposition between rigor and theatricality, abstraction and iconicity. Technical precision and demanding craftsmanship are wedded to a profusion of forms that refuse any stable connection to a referent and are matched by titles rife with neologisms compounded from shattered words. Cheerfully accepting the ultimate unfigurability of the part object that activates desire, Rey gives himself over to generating a potentially endless metonymic series of its imaginary configurations.

Michael Rey currently lives and works in Los Angeles. He received his BFA from the Ringling School of Art and Design (2002) and his MFA from Art Center (2008). Recent exhibitions include Zero, Milan (2015); White Flag Projects, St. Louis (2015); Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles (2015); Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York (2015) and Lisson Gallery, London (2014).

Biography

Born 1979, Sarasota, USA. Lives and works in Los Angeles, USA.

EDUCATION

- 2008 MFA, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, USA
- 2002 BFA, Ringling School of Art and Design, Sarasota, USA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Michael Rey*, Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium
About a work #4, Zero, Milan, Italy
Omes, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, USA
- 2014 *2732*, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, USA
Ibject, Room East, New York, USA
- 2011 *Dracula Plus Plus*, Young Art, Los Angeles, USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Back to Basics*, Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, USA
Object Painting - Painting Object, Jonathan Viner, London, UK
Rio (curated by Louis-Philippe Van Eeckhoutte), Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium
A Peg to Hang It On, White Flag Projects, St. Louis, USA
Crunchy (organized by Gregory Linn and Clayton Press), Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York, USA
- 2014 *Amy Feldman & Michael Rey*, Freddy, Baltimore, USA
Matt Connors, Bernard Piffaretti, and Michael Rey, Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles, USA
Another Cats Show, 356 Mission, Los Angeles, USA
Where Were You?, Lisson Gallery, London, UK
Green Circle, Black Diamond, Ratio 3, San Francisco, USA
Hephaestus, Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium
- 2013 *Alexandre da Cunha, Michael Rey, Michael Williams, B. Wurtz*, Office Baroque, Antwerp, Belgium
California Visual Music: Three Generations of Abstraction, Chapman University, Orange, USA
- 2012 *Chasm of The Supernova* (curated by Adam Miller), Center for the Arts Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, USA
- 2010 *What Now?* (curated by Christian Jendreiko), Schmela House, Dusseldorf, Germany
Ooga Booga Reading Room (in collaboration with Lucena Valle-Rey, curated by Wendy Yao), Swiss Institute Contemporary Art, New York, USA

- 2009 *Is What It Is What It Is*, Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, USA
Sculpture Park, Karyn Lovegrove Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
Wet Paint: Ten Young LA Painters, Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA
Salon No. 1, Works 001 - 029, Marine, Los Angeles, USA
ACCOMMODATION, Higher Institute for Fine Arts, Ghent, Belgium
- 2008 *Cocktail Hour with Skip Arnold and Friends*, Bonelli Contemporary, Los Angeles, USA
- 2007 *My Buddy*, UCLA New Wight Biennial, New Wight Gallery, Los Angeles, USA