

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tony Berlant: Night Bloom

May 19 – June 18, 2005

Opening Reception for the artist:

Thursday, May 19, 2005, 6-8 p.m.



Out of Sight, 2005
found and fabricated printed tin collaged on plywood with steel brad
10 x 10 in. [25.4 x 25.4]

Venice, CA — In this new work, Tony Berlant continues to explore his fascination with the desert as subject and metaphor, turning to visions of the arid landscape at night. The exhibition includes nocturne scenes and a series of small-scale works of night-blooming cactus orchids.

While the desert landscape itself is the starting point in the formation of Berlant’s compositions, it is the experience of *being* in the landscape, and the underlying order of nature that Berlant strives to capture in his work. The desert at night is a world transformed: landscape is seen in muted tones, and with more subtle contrasts than during daylight hours. Berlant’s palette embraces a complex range of darker colours, and the space that he conveys is deep and absorbing. The intimate flower studies are sensuous homages to the delicate blossoms that shun the daylight, and as Berlant has stated are “just tantric icons of the energy of the universe.”

The medium of Berlant’s work is found and fabricated printed tin, which he cuts, assembles and affixes to wood panels, with steel brads. Composing each work from numerous fragments of metal, he manipulates the material with the same degree of freedom as paint on canvas.

Tony Berlant was born in New York in 1941 and moved to Los Angeles when he was a young child. Berlant remained in Los Angeles to study at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he received his MA and MFA, and went on to teach in the University’s art department. He received early recognition in 1960, when Clement Greenberg selected one of his paintings for inclusion in an exhibition of LA-area artists at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. In 1964, the same museum awarded Berlant the New Talent Purchase Grant, and he has since exhibited widely throughout the United States. His work is represented in many private and public collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C.; Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles. Major public commissions include Fox Network Center, Los Angeles; San Francisco Airport, the Minneapolis Institute of Art, the Mayo Clinic, and Target Corporation, Minneapolis.

Concurrent to *Tony Berlant: Night Bloom*, an exhibition of new paintings by Danish artist Per Kirkeby is on view in the first floor galleries.

For further information and visuals, please contact Elizabeth East, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291; telephone 310-822-4955; fax: 310-821-7529; e-mail: elizabeth@lalouver.com; website: www.lalouver.com