



Fatal Match, 2006, gold & silver leaf, acrylic, paint marker, spray paint and Mean Streak on wood panel
Six Panels Overall: 83 x 126 in. (210.8 x 320 cm)

L.A. Louver is delighted to present a long-anticipated exhibition of new paintings and works on paper by the Japanese-American artist Gajin Fujita. Fujita's increasingly sophisticated works reflect many cultural influences that range from the lush visuals of traditional Japanese tattoos, screen painting from the Edo period and woodblock prints by *ukiyo-e* artists, to contemporary Japanese cartoons and hip-hop culture.

“...the paintings present themselves as competing fields of moral and technical mastery that coexist in their own accomplishment. The Renaissance compositions do not ‘critique’ the Edo characters. The Edo characters do not ‘critique’ the graffiti or vice versa. Everything is equal, and, insofar as the synthesis is complete, beautiful, and just a little frightening in its insistence on our fragile mortality.”
– Dave Hickey

Both paintings and drawings juxtapose Japanese imagery such as geisha and samurai figures, fish and birds, rendered in luscious hues and stylized form. These figures may be situated in L.A. landscapes, such as in *The Mack* and *Fatal Match*, or embedded in two-dimensional environments, such as in *Burn* and *Teen Spirit*. An element rendered in most of the paintings is that of the moon – waxing, waning or in full form – that conjures the title of the exhibition.

Fujita makes his paintings by first applying either white gold, yellow gold or platinum leaf (or combinations thereof) in patterned compositions onto prepared wood panels. Fujita then spraypaints graffiti over the boards, sometimes inviting former members of his graffiti crew to contribute tags and bombs. Over the text Fujita creates compositions using acrylic paint, which he applies either freehand or by employing stencils. The stencils are most often fashioned by the artist, created from cut-out drawings he makes on paper. Fujita continues to work on the stencils once the painting to which each is allied has been completed, giving them independent stature. *Twilight Blush* includes a selection of these drawings that range in scale from intimate to monumental.

(continued)

GAJIN FUJITA: Twilight Blush

16 November - 30 December, 2006

Opening reception:
Thursday, 16 November,
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

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Study for the Mack (Geisha), 2006, spraypaint, paint marker and pencil on paper
17 3/4 x 22 13/16 in. (45.1 x 57.9 cm)



Burn, 2006, acrylic, 24 & 12K gold leaf, spray paint & Mean Streak on wood panel, 48 x 96 in. (121.9 x 243.8 cm)

Fujita received his formal training at Otis College of Art + Design, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he studied with Dave Hickey, graduating in 2000 with a MFA. His work has been featured in important group shows, including *Beau Monde: Toward a Redeemed Cosmopolitanism*, Site Santa Fe's 4th International Biennial, 2001; *Casino 2001*, Stedelijk Museum; 2001 *Outlook International Exhibition*, Athens, 2003; and *Populence*, Blaffer Gallery, Houston, Texas (and traveling), 2005. Gajin Fujita was paired with Pablo Vargas Lugo in the exhibition *Contemporary Projects 9* at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, 2005-06; and has recently been honored with his first solo museum exhibition, entitled *Zephyr: Paintings by Gajin Fujita* (8 September – 5 November, 2006) at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in Kansas City. An extensive full-color catalogue, which includes essays by exhibition curator Elizabeth Dunbar, critic Dave Hickey, curator Franklin Sirmans and Asian art scholar Jason Steuber, accompanies the museum exhibition.

L.A. Louver is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Validated parking is available in the garage directly opposite the gallery.



Lust, 2006, yellow and white gold leaf, spraypaint and Mean Streak on wood panel, 16 x 48 in. (40.6 x 121.9 cm)



For further information and visuals, please contact:
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