

PRESS RELEASE  
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Jason Martin

October 15 - November 13, 2004

Opening reception: Friday, October 15, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of new paintings by London-based artist Jason Martin.

For his new series of works, Jason Martin has created a stunning palette of red, pink and gold. The colors are suspended in either gel or oil, which Martin applies over panels of stainless steel, aluminum and copper. The artist designs his own tools to manipulate the wet paint across the surface of his chosen support. Working the pigment back and forth over the panel in single gestures, the painting is complete when Martin is satisfied with a final, defining mark. As such, each painting is a record of the movement of the artist's body. The horizontal and vertical lines that are defined by the tool create an illusionistic space generated by the intersection of light on and through the medium to the underlying support. Martin refers to the paintings as reflections because of the way in which the light interacts with the varying grades of paint applications and shifts in the mark against the support.

In addition to the evolution of a complex palette, two further developments are present in the recent work. First, the introduction of irregular forms of support: trapezoid shapes that interrupt the formal symmetry of the ground. Second, while continuing to explore established vertical and horizontal formats, Martin introduces a center or apex in the work – a point at the middle of the bottom edge – that creates a fan-like composition.

Born in Jersey, Channel Isles, Jason Martin studied at the Chelsea School of Art, and Goldsmiths' College, University of London. Martin received early acclaim for his paintings, with representation in the exhibition "Wonderful Life" Lisson Gallery, London, in 1993, the year of his graduation from Goldsmiths'. Martin has been honored with a solo show at Staatliche Galerie Nordhorn in 1998, as well as gallery exhibitions in London, Milan, Paris, Salzburg, New York and Nagoya, Japan. Martin's paintings have also been included in many landmark exhibitions including "Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection", Royal Academy, London (traveling to Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin and Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York); "Post-Hypnotic", University Galleries, New York (traveling to the MAC, Dallas; The Atlanta College Art Gallery, The Chicago Cultural Centre and the Tweed Museum, University of Minnesota, Naples Museum of Art and Massachusetts College of Art) in 1999; and "Monochrome", Reina Sofia, Madrid in 2004. Martin's work may be found in public and private collections throughout the world, including Staatliche Galerie Nordhorn, Germany; Museum of Modern Art, La Spenzia, Italy; Jersey Museum, Channel Islands; Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, UK; and Albright Knox Gallery,

Buffalo; Denver Art Museum; and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden,  
Washington, D.C., USA.

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