

# ROGUE WAVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 2023

29 March - 6 May 2023

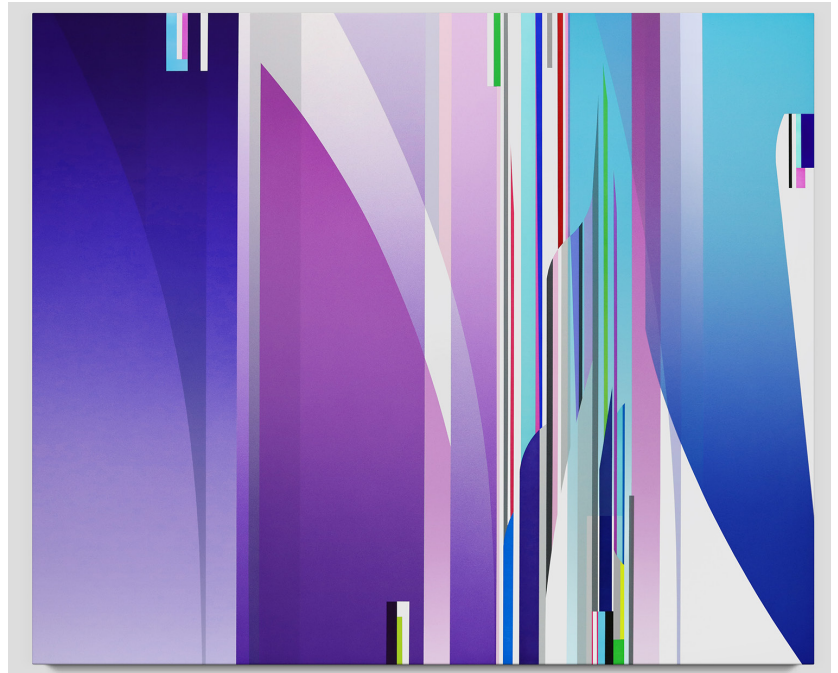
Opening Reception  
Wednesday, 29 March 2023  
6 - 8 p.m.

Media Contact:

Darius Sabbaghzadeh  
darius@hellothirdeye.com

Kyle Hinton  
kyle@hellothirdeye.com

45 N Venice Blvd  
Venice CA 90291  
info@lalouver.com  
310 822 4955  
lalouver.com



*Dawn Chorus*, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 48 x 58 in. (121.9 x 147.3 cm)

# DION JOHNSON

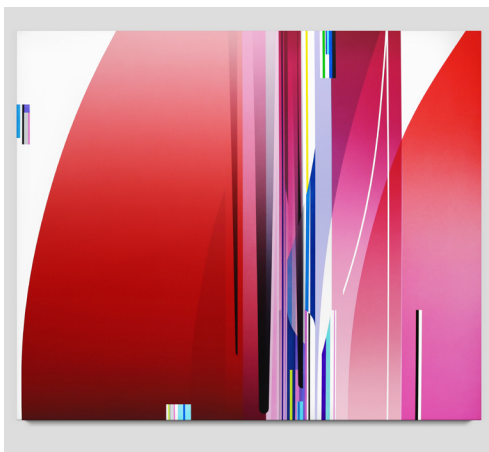
## COLOR PLAY

**VENICE, CA** – L.A. Louver is delighted to present *Color Play*, a Rogue Wave exhibition of new paintings by Los Angeles based artist Dion Johnson. A coalescence of ideas and techniques developed over years of observation and painting, *Dion Johnson: Color Play* conjures mesmerizing vistas, layered temporalities, and affective experiences.

Painted with acrylic on canvas and ranging in size from 32 x 36 in. (81.3 x 91.4 cm) to 60 x 72 in. (152.4 x 182.9 cm), Johnson's works communicate through immediate sensation. Akin to romantic landscapes, the compositions summon emotional responses through sublime and atmospheric expansiveness, expressed by gradient color fields and cascading bands of light. Inspired by the natural world, his paintings reproduce the effects of light shifting, focusing on a spiritual in-betweenness.

Johnson's paintings orient themselves on vertical axes as opposed to traditional horizon lines, situating the viewer in an imaginative place between fantasy and reality; an impression heightened by Johnson's striking synthetic color choices and strict delineations. The aspects of orientation, line, and hue in combination with the artist's careful attention to the proximity of shapes, manipulate time through calculated relationships between color and space.

Building on the conceptual developments of Paul Klee's musical demarcations, Johnson's paintings are like songs, chronicling activity. The color palettes in each artwork act as scales, his gradients the swelling crescendo and falling decrescendo, his compositions progressions between dissonance and consonance. Two paintings, *Red Rhythm* (2023) – full of intense and generous rouge – and *Dawn Chorus* (2023) –an amalgam of violet– verify this synesthetic connection between sonic composition and visual form, affirmed by their titles.



*Red Rhythm*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
60 x 72 in. (152.4 x 182.9 cm)

# ROGUE WAVE



*Diver*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
21 x 24 in. (53.3 x 61 cm)



*Aglow*, 2023  
acrylic on canvas  
21 x 24 in. (53.3 x 61 cm)

Where works like *Red Rhythm* and *Dawn Chorus* concentrate on an experiential feeling, others are more narrative. *ForceField* (2023) presents an energetic science fiction scene of magnetic movement interposed with gravitational drops of purple, a shape only recently developed by Johnson. *Diver* (2023) evokes a more intimate story of diving into the ocean and the sensations of warm and cold currents through different values of blue.

*Color Play* represents the gamut of multisensorial experiences enjoyed in the presence of Johnson's art. The sensations of touch through implied texture, temperature and emotion through color, and sound through intentional composition are all present in this exhibition. Merging atmospheric romanticism, hard edge painting forms, and light and space philosophies, Johnson's paintings give form to abstract universal experiences that rarely find material expression.

## About the Artist

Dion Johnson is based in Los Angeles, California. Born in 1975 in Bellaire, Ohio, he attended Yale Norfolk Summer School of Music and Art, received his BFA from The Ohio State University and his MFA from Claremont Graduate University. His work can be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Art and History, Lancaster, CA; Creative Artists Agency, Los Angeles, CA; Columbus Museum of Art, Columbus, OH; Twitter Inc., Santa Monica, CA; Capital Group Companies, Los Angeles, CA; and Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH, among others. Johnson's work has been reviewed and featured in the Los Angeles Times, Artforum, Artnews, HuffPost, Artillery, Art and Cake, and The New York Times.

## About Rogue Wave

L.A. Louver initiated its Rogue Wave program to showcase emerging and underrepresented talent in Los Angeles, presenting group exhibitions in 2001, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2013. The gallery has also organized solo Rogue Wave Projects with Eduardo Sarabia (2009), Olga Koumoundoros (2010), Matt Wedel (2010), Grant Stevens (2013), Heather Gwen Martin (2014), Chen Man (2014), Yvette Gellis (2021), and Sean Higgins (2022).