

**JASON MARTIN NEAR BY FAR**  
**21 JULY - 27 AUGUST 2011**

RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST:  
 THURSDAY, 21 JULY, 6-8 P.M.

*All journeys have secret destinations of which the traveler is unaware.*  
 ----- Martin Buber

**Venice, CA** -- L.A. Louver is pleased to announce the opening of *Near by Far*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by **Jason Martin**.

Over a career that approaches two decades, Martin has become renowned for his rich, sensuous, monochromatic abstract paintings. In this new body of work, Martin pursues an increasingly textured, three-dimensional approach.

Positioning his new works in a realm between painting and sculpture, Martin explores the “near” and “far” of pictorial space. He creates these paintings from a paste medium that he manipulates on panels of aluminum and wood. Over this paste, Martin applies pure pigments. Shimmering, resolute, and intense, the pigments possess an alluring identity, with hues that are potent with poetic suggestion. The paintings give the impression of intense activity, stilled; their non-reflective surfaces resonate from the pure color and the compositions they inhabit. The exhibition includes a variety of scale -- sizes range from 22 x 18 inches to over 6 x 6 feet -- as well as palette, with a spectrum that includes gold, violet, turquoise, and magenta.



*Genus, 2011, pure pigment on panel  
 22 x 18 1/8 in. (56 x 46 cm)*

Far from being abstract paintings, Martin favors an eclectic and open interpretation of the associative possibilities inherent in each work. Titles offer access into the paintings and come from the natural world: *Genus* and *Cay*; scientific knowledge beyond our world: *Aether* and *Moon*; and from a shared cultural history: *Shaolin*, *Rajah* and *Tzion*. Martin states “this exhibition is a testimonial to a place found through incident and circumstances beyond my control. If the title is considered as a journey, far only becomes near from the reflection of the distance traveled. Getting closer depends on your perception of how far you have traveled. This can be an illusion. And to arrive at a place is, of course, another departure.”

Born in Jersey, Channel Isles, Jason Martin studied at the Chelsea School of Art, and Goldsmiths’ College, University of London (1990-1993). Martin achieved early recognition for his work, with gallery exhibitions in London, Nagoya, Japan and Nordhern, Germany during the mid-1990s. He was catapulted onto a broad international stage with inclusion of his paintings in “Sensation: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection”, Royal Academy, London (traveled to Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin and Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York) 1997-2000. This was followed by the exhibitions “Post-Hypnotic”, University Galleries, New York (traveled to the MAC, Dallas; The Atlanta College Art Gallery; The Chicago Cultural Centre; Tweed Museum, University of Minnesota; Naples Museum of Art and Massachusetts College of Art) in 1999, and “Monochrome,” Reina Sofia, Madrid in 2004. More recent solo exhibitions include “Nomad,” Centro de Arte Contemporaneo, Malaga, Spain, and “Rock” Centro Brasileiro Britanico, Sao Paulo, Brazil, both in 2008; and “Vigil” at The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy in 2009.

Martin’s work is found in public and private collections, including the Government Art Collection, UK; Staatliche Gallerie Nordhorn, Germany; Museum of Modern Art, La Spenzia, Italy; Jersey Museum, Channel Islands; Birmingham Museum, UK; Art Gallery, UK; Albright Knox Gallery, Buffalo; Denver Art Museum; and Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, D.C. Martin lives and works in London, UK and Lisbon, Portugal.

Concurrently on view in L.A. Louver’s South Gallery and Skyroom

**Joel Shapiro: Five Recent Sculptures**  
 Intimate sculptures in bronze.