

KOHN GALLERY

EDDIE MARTINEZ NOMADER

September 12 – October 25, 2014

Opening Reception for the Artist:
Friday, September 12th 2014 from 6pm to 8pm



Untitled, 2014, oil paint, enamel, spray paint, collaged computer paper on canvas, 72 x 108 inches

June 18, 2014, Los Angeles—Kohn Gallery is pleased to present “Nomader”, an exhibition of new paintings, sculpture, and works on paper by New York-based artist Eddie Martinez, on view September 12 through October 25, 2014. This will be the artist’s first solo show in Los Angeles and at the Kohn Gallery. His work was most recently seen in London at the Saatchi Gallery’s exhibition, “Body Language” (November 2013 – March 2014).

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Martinez draws his inspiration from a wide-range of sources, spanning from the ever-evolving landscape of the city to major art historical movements of the 20th century such as **Abstract Expressionism**, **CoBrA**, **Neo-Expressionism**, and **Surrealism**. An immediacy and physicality inhabit this work thanks to Martinez's simultaneously gritty and graceful visual language. It's a remarkably strong, muscular type of painting resulting from the influences of urban culture and the unrestrained emotionality of the modern masters.

Martinez's work pushes the boundaries of what constitutes painting and, specifically, what comprises art. Traditional oil paint mixes with spray paint and the detritus of the studio: baby wipes, paper towels and gum wrappers are conspicuous in the textured landscape of these paintings. Vibrant color and expressive lines join together and dance around the composition, emitting a confident and powerful energy. Like the work of **Philip Guston**, **Willem de Kooning**, and **Asger Jorn**, pure abstraction and representation co-exist on the canvas, continuously giving way to each other and contributing to the overall power that is inherent in these paintings. This deft balance looks even further into art history as it recalls the carnal primitivism of the turn of the century's avant-garde, and the graceful lyricism of the Abstract Expressionists.

Recent investigations have led Martinez to both small and large-scale abstract sculpture, made mostly from found materials including rubber hoses, Styrofoam, cardboard, and metal scraps sourced from wherever the artist is working at the time: Greenpoint and Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, or East Hampton and the North Fork in Long Island. In fact, all the work for this exhibition, *Nomad*, was made across these four different studios. The exhibition title is not only referential to his current art practice, but also autobiographical. Growing up, Martinez moved quite frequently and even lost his belongings on multiple occasions. Nomadism worked its way into the artist's practice, informing the rich materiality and musculature of his work. This influence fueled an indefatigable evolution in the artist's practice—a perpetual striving and searching that pushes the work against boundaries and convention.

About Eddie Martinez

Eddie Martinez (b. 1977, Groton, Connecticut) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He has been a resident at Bauernmarkt, Lenikus Collection, Vienna (2008) and was awarded First Place, Best Group Show in a Commercial Gallery for the Boston-area, by the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) Awards (2007). His work has been included in the following exhibitions: *Body Language*, The Saatchi Gallery, London (2012); *Eddie Martinez*, Peres Projects, Berlin (2011); *New York Electric*, Patricia Low Contemporary, Geneva (2011); *New York Minute*, Garage Center For Contemporary Culture, Moscow (2011); *Eddie Martinez: Selected Drawings 2005-2011*, Schwarz Contemporary, Berlin (2011); *I Am Who I Am: The Portrait Reconsidered*, Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston (2011); *Buffet State Of Mind, Sorry We're Closed*, Brussels (2010); *Eddie Martinez*, ZieherSmith, New York (2010); *Not Quite Open for Business*, The Hole, New York (2010); *Draw*, Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico City (2010); *Wall to Wall*, Daniel Weinberg Gallery, Los Angeles (2010); *New York Minute*, MACRO FUTURE, Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome (2009); *News and Updates*, Galerie Mikael Andersen, Copenhagen (2009); *Eddie Martinez*, Seomi & Tuus, Seoul, Korea (2009); *New Paintings*, Galleri Loyal, Stockholm (2008); *Hooters*, Galeria Comercial, San Juan, Puerto Rico (2007); *So Wrong, I'm Right*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles (2007); and *Panic Room: Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection*, Deste Foundation Centre for Contemporary Art, Athens (2006).

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Since its establishment in 1985 by former Flash Art editor, Michael Kohn, Kohn Gallery has presented art historically significant exhibitions in Los Angeles along with contemporary exhibitions that create meaningful contexts, establishing links to the greater art historical continuum. Significant exhibitions include: Andy Warhol's *Campbell's Soup Boxes* in December 1986, just weeks before the artist's untimely death; *She: Works by Richard Prince and Wallace Berman*, brought together, for the first time, two generations of leading artists from different coasts; *Bruce Conner: Work from the 1970s*, which inspired the artist's first solo retrospective in Europe at the Kunsthalle Wien and Kunsthalle Zurich (2010); other shows of important New York-based artists have included new works by Christopher Wool, Richard Tuttle, Mark Tansey, Kenny Scharf, and Keith Haring. Kohn Gallery represents important West Coast artists with long careers and rich history, including Bruce Connor, the Estate of Wallace Berman, Larry Bell, and Joe Goode; along with an exciting roster of emerging and mid-career artists including Simmons & Burke, Hannah Greely, Ryan McGinness, Rosa Loy, Dennis Hollingsworth, Mark Ryden, James Nares, Eddie Martinez, and Troika.

In May 2014, Kohn Gallery opened a new 12,000 square foot gallery. Designed by Malibu-based architect Lester Tobias, the new gallery building features an immense space with 22-foot ceilings, allowing for stunning exhibitions on a monumental scale. This design also incorporates a massive glass window along Highland Avenue and extensive skylights to bathe the gallery with natural light. With an eye always towards the future, the Kohn Gallery will utilize this expansive new exhibition space to continue to mount bold exhibitions of established and emerging artists.

Visit kohngallery.com for the latest information on upcoming exhibitions.

Join the “Eddie Martinez: Nomader” conversation on social media by mentioning @KOHNGallery and using the #MartinezKohn hashtag when posting.

Gallery Contact: Kohn Gallery
Samantha Glaser
samantha@kohngallery.com

Media Contact: FITZ & CO
Erika Oman
erika.oman@fitzandco.com
(212) 627-1455 x256