

Angel Otero
17 February – 10 April, 2011
201 Chrystie Street
Opening Reception: Thursday, 17 February 6 – 8 PM



texture in every painting."

Lehmann Maupin Gallery announces the inaugural solo exhibition of **Angel Otero**, on view **17 February – 10 April, 2011** at **201 Chrystie Street**. Otero interweaves traditional Spanish Baroque imagery with personal subject matter, employing unconventional techniques to create large-scale, dynamic expressionistic abstractions.

In this exhibition Angel Otero presents a new body of work highlighting the process-based art for which he is known. Through his innovative process of oil paint scraping, Otero venerates historical oil painting while confronting it head on. Materials such as canvas, desks, dining tables, and frames are treated as sculptural, three-dimensional surfaces utilizing two-dimensional techniques. After painting realistic imagery onto glass, Otero delicately peels off sheets of oil paint and grafts the layers to his object. With his creations Otero says he wishes to "give a sense of abundance, unbalance, ambition, courage, and persistence within form, color and

Philosophical texts, theories of representation, and notions of abstraction inform Otero's process, but his most central inspiration is personal. Otero's work is heavily influenced by life in Puerto Rico, his relationship with family members, and his personal narrative. Instead of representing his life through art, he archives moments within it by creating opportunities of surprise and self-discovery.

*Angel Otero was born in 1981 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, where he resided until moving to Chicago at the age of 24. He is currently based in Brooklyn but divides his time between New York and Chicago. He received his Master's of Fine Arts from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Shortly after receiving his MFA, Otero was included in the exhibition *Constellations* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago and was the recipient of the prestigious Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts. Otero's recent solo shows include exhibitions at Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago and the Chicago Cultural Center. In 2010 Otero's work was included in a group show at Lehmann Maupin entitled *Touched* and a group show at LA's Prism, entitled *Misericordia*.*

Image shown: ANGEL OTERO, He Prefers Himself to Everyone Else Because Everyone Else Abandons Him II (Orange and Blue), 2010, oil skins on canvas, 84 x 72 inches

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