

**JOHN ZURIER**  
*NORDIC PAINTINGS*

14 de Enero - 10 de Febrero de 2010

**Inauguración el 13 de Enero a las 19:30 h. con la presencia del artista**

La Galería Javier López presenta *Nordic Paintings*, segunda muestra individual en España de John Zurier (Santa Mónica, CA, 1956), una selección de pinturas inspiradas en su mayoría por diversos lugares de Finlandia y Suecia visitados recientemente por el pintor.

Hijo de un coleccionista y familiarizado con el arte desde muy joven, fueron el sentimiento de soledad, el silencio y la relación emocional durante la contemplación de las obras en los museos, las que marcaron su posterior desarrollo como artista. Precisamente el establecimiento de ese vínculo emocional y natural con cada lienzo es lo que define los tres elementos esenciales de su trabajo sobre una superficie: el color, la luz y la composición. Él mismo nos declara respecto a su obra: "quiero dar el máximo sentido de color, luz y espacio utilizando los medios más simples"

Interesado profundamente en el proceso de trabajo a realizar hasta que concluye cada obra, John Zurier reconoce no trabajar con reglas determinadas, y así, todas las decisiones que toma son esenciales para el resultado final. La búsqueda de un tono, la inspiración de pequeños detalles, las notas tomadas a como registro de experiencias (que después trasladará a los cuadros) o la lectura de poetas de la exigencia de Paul Celan y Osip Mandelstam, marcan sin duda la singularidad y belleza plástica de sus lienzos.

Desde la *Whitney Biennial of Art* de 2002, comisariada por Lawrence Rinder, John Zurier se ha consolidado como uno de los pintores americanos contemporáneos de mayor reconocimiento. Sin embargo, lejos de considerarse parte de las tradiciones expresionista abstracta o minimalista, él se considera a sí mismo un pintor preocupado por aquello que ocurre durante la concepción del cuadro, por la pincelada -considerada un elemento estructural de su obra-, gracias a la cual consigue que cada pintura sea necesariamente diferente. La solidez de su trabajo con el color -casi siempre monocromo- y su minuciosa técnica de capas, dan un sentido absolutamente único a la representación.

La selección de la serie *Nordic paintings* que aquí se muestra, está tocada por un sentido lírico, casi *zen*, donde las formas, los colores y la materialidad del lienzo nos sumergen en una experiencia tan evocadora como singular, donde la emoción -aparentemente bajo la superficie- brota y sale a nuestro encuentro.

John Zurier ha realizado exposiciones individuales en San Francisco (2009, Philadelphia (2008), Nueva York y Madrid (2007), Inglaterra (2003) y su obra se ha mostrado en la 7ª Bienal de Gwangju de 2008 (Corea del Sur). Sus pinturas se encuentran en las colecciones del Berkeley Art Museum, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Oakland Museum, así como en numerosas colecciones públicas y privadas de Estados Unidos y Europa. Se graduó en 1979 en la Universidad de California donde hizo sus estudios de postgrado. Actualmente vive en Berkeley, California y es profesor en el California College of the Arts de San Francisco.

La muestra permanecerá abierta de martes a viernes en horario de 11:00 a 14:00 h y de 16:30 a 20:30 h., sábado de 11:00 a 14:00.  
Para más solicitar más información o imágenes pónganse en contacto con la galería.

**JOHN ZURIER**  
*NORDIC PAINTINGS*

14 January - 10 February 2010

**Opening on 13 January at 8pm. The artist will be in attendance.**

The Galería Javier López is proud to present *Nordic Paintings*, the second solo exhibition in Spain for John Zurier (b. Santa Monica, CA, 1956). It is a selection of paintings, most of which were inspired by various places from Zurier's recent visits to Finland and Sweden.

He is the son of a collector and has had a familiarity with art from an early age. As a young man, the feeling of solitude, silence and the emotional relationship to the works that he looked at in museums made a significant impression on his later development as an artist. Establishing such an emotional and natural connection with each canvas is what defines the three key elements of his approach to a plane surface: colour, light and composition. He himself has declared about his work: "I want the maximum sense of color, light and space with the most simple and direct means".

He is profoundly involved in the working process that builds up the canvases he is engaged in creating until he reaches the point which he recognizes as completion, and Zurier acknowledges that he works without predetermined rules, so that each decision in the process contributes to the final result. The search for a hue, the inspiration of tiny details, notes taken to record experiences (which he later transfers to his paintings) or his emotional engagement with the poetry of writers such as Paul Celan and Osip Mandelstam, all these bring their influence to bear upon the uniqueness and plastic beauty of his paintings.

Since the Whitney Biennial of 2002, curated by Lawrence Rinder, John Zurier has consolidated his position as one of the most widely acclaimed contemporary American painters. Even so, far from seeing himself as part of the traditions of abstract expressionism or minimalism, he considers himself as a painter to be concerned with what happens during the conception of a canvas, with the brush work—taken as a structural element of the work—which means that every painting inevitably has its own individuality. The solidity of his work with colour—almost always monochrome—and his painstaking technique of applying layers of paint, give a tone to the visual impression that is completely his own.

The selection of paintings from the series *Nordic Paintings* on show here is graced with a lyric sense that has a zen-like quality, where shape, colour and the physical texture of the linen submerge us in an experience that is at once evocative and unique, where emotion—apparently beneath the surface—breaks through and confronts the viewer.

John Zurier has had solo exhibitions in San Francisco (2009), Philadelphia (2008), New York and Madrid (2007), England (2003), and his work was shown at the seventh Gwangju Biennial in South Korea. His paintings are in the collections of the Berkeley Art Museum, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Oakland Museum, as well as in numerous public and private collections in the United States and Europe. He graduated in 1979 from the University of California at Berkeley, where he also went on to complete his post-graduate studies. He currently lives in Berkeley, California, and teaches at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

The exhibition is open from Tuesday to Friday from 11.00 to 14.00 and from 16.30 to 20.30, and Saturday from 11.00 to 14.00. For further information or images, please contact the gallery.