



Kenton Parker | *Melanie* (detail), acrylic on archival panel, 50 x 50 in.

Assembled from a myriad of artistic communities, eleven Los Angeles based artists converge in our upcoming group exhibition, *LA Intersections*.

LA INTERSECTIONS

Curated by Andrew Schoultz

Group Exhibition with Aaron Noble, Kenton Parker, Zes, Adam Beris, Patrick Martinez, Claire Colette, Zak Smith, Sage Vaughn, Hilary Pecis, Jesse Willenbring, and James Jean

May 6 – July 31, 2017

Opening Reception

Saturday, May 6th @ 6-9pm

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Fabien Castanier Gallery is very excited to announce our upcoming group exhibition, featuring eleven different artists from the Los Angeles area. The show, *LA Intersections* is curated by L.A. based artist Andrew Schoultz, who has assembled a diverse roster of contemporary artists. The exhibition represents a tableau of the L.A. art scene – a unique presentation of today's cutting edge image-makers. From graffiti to surrealism and abstraction, to sculpture, installation and works on canvas, *LA Intersections* will be an immersive experience and a cross-section of the Los Angeles cultural landscape.

LA Intersections will feature works from Aaron Noble, Kenton Parker, Zes, Adam Beris, Patrick Martinez, Claire Collette, Zak Smith, Sage Vaughn, Hilary Pecis, Jesse Willenbring, and James Jean.

Aaron Noble

Built directly from comic book imagery and aesthetics come the paintings of artist Aaron Noble. He composes twisted and stretched forms, energetic masses that only mildly recall their original superhero origins. Noble pushes the concept of inhumanity, by abstracting the superhuman form to an almost unrecognizable point as he distorts the viewer's idea of what's powerful and beautiful. To the artist, his work is serene and calming, and by finding beauty in the visceral, Noble's paintings seek to re-asses the projection of violence and overt physical power in popular culture.

Aaron Noble has painted murals all over the world in cities like London, Beijing, Djogjakarta, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. His work has been shown in museums such as the Torrance Art Museum and the Hammer Museum. For *LA Intersections* Noble will present an oceanic inspired mural and paintings.

Kenton Parker

Parker's work is primarily conceptual in nature – paintings, sculptures, drawings, video and most notably installation – his pieces address a multitude of issues, many centered on the personal battles of our times. He plays with ideas of rebellion against societal pressures, the concepts of beauty, masculinity, self-improvement and perfection. His works are often deeply personal and introspective, relating honest discourse on contemporary themes.

For *LA Intersections* Parker will present canvases as well as a mural and sculptures. His paintings will be part of his "starburst" series, abstract interpretations of his relationships and the spectrum of emotions elicited from the significant people of his past and present.

Zes

Zes (or sometimes Zeser) represents one of the deeply rooted genres of art in the city – Los Angeles graffiti. A seasoned street practitioner, Zes has been able to evolve his work to fit the gallery setting, presenting abstract canvases that push the boundaries of what graffiti art can be. Originating from the LTS crew as well as AWR/MSK, Zes has become an integral part of the authentic L.A. art community. Ever inspired by the architecture and history of his urban environment, he stands as one of the most ambitious and daring graffiti artists, who over years of accumulated work has contributed to the innovations of West Coast wild style. For *LA Intersections*, Zes will create a special installation in the gallery's project room.

Adam Beris

Beris is a founding members of one of the most unique artist-run programs in Los Angeles today, BBQLA. A migrating gallery and alternative art space, BBQLA's events combine artist exhibition and barbeque. What began as a regular gathering of friends between the artists in their backyard has evolved into one of the hallmarks of the downtown L.A. art scene. Nurturing a sense of community, Beris and his BBQLA partners, seek to create a one-of-a-kind experience for established and emerging art in Los Angeles. Beris studied formally at the Kansas City Art Institute and his personal artistic practice has consisted of paintings, sculpture, and mixed media. He creates paintings that are sculptural in nature, often applying the pigment directly from tube to surface Beris constructs visages that emphasize their substance. By re-interpreting the utilization of the paint, forgoing traditional modes of application, he seeks to display a bastardization of the material.

Patrick Martinez

The work of Patrick Martinez began with influences from Hip Hop culture and graffiti, quickly developing into informative and powerful artwork that shines a light on contemporary urban issues. He creates paintings, sculpture, neon pieces and installation to explore the everyday, and sometimes harsh, realities of life in Los Angeles. Tackling social and popular culture subjects with dark humor and a genuine sense of political awareness, Martinez delves into the L.A. communities often un-represented.

Patrick Martinez received his BFA from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena in 2005, and his work can be found in collections such as the Cornell Fine Art Museum and the Museum of Latin American.

For *LA Intersections*, Martinez will show an installation of select neon pieces.

Claire Colette

Presenting meticulously crafted compositions, Claire Colette reaches deeply into matters of consciousness and the psychological moments that define human experience. She displays geometric landscapes, visual abstractions that are at once scientifically rooted and entirely intangible. Encouraging a meditative atmosphere with her planar symbolism, Colette de-constructs experience to explore ones shifting perspectives of time when caught in intense moments of emotion. She frequently uses graphite to render her pieces, a material that feeds into the life of the artwork as each piece develops over a long period of time.

Claire Colette received her MFA in painting from Mills College in 2013 and her work is currently part of the De Young Museum collection in San Francisco.

Zak Smith

Vivid depictions of female subjects rendered with gritty abstraction are the primary focus of Zak Smith's artistic practice. His paintings and drawings are often intricately detailed, and narratively rich. Influenced by comic books, pop culture, and the

women he's known and worked with in the adult-film industry, Smith's work springs from the bed of his alternative and punk rock sensibilities. The world exposed in Smith's compositions is energetic, endlessly vibrant, and aesthetically complex. His pieces can be found in a number of public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and the Whitney Museum of American art where his work was included in the 2004 Whitney Biennial. His work has also been show at institutions such as the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the National Portrait Gallery in Washington D.C. For *LA Intersections* Smith will show a monumental collection of drawings and paintings, considered as a singular art piece that started when he performed in his first pornographic film in Los Angeles in order to document the environment and people around him.

Sage Vaughn

Organic, ethereal, and melancholic are the paintings and illustrations of Sage Vaughn. Most known for his depictions of various wildlife, commonly birds and butterflies, in the foreground of cloudy urban vistas, Vaughn's work contrasts the realms of the man-made and that of the untamed, focusing compositions on moments that transcend both. His work explores the wildness of humanity as well as the civilized aspects of nature with life and vitality. His dream-like abstractions also touch on childhood nostalgia and the delicate balance between man, animal, and innocence.

Vaughn has shown his work throughout the U.S. and internationally, most notably with an exhibition at the Los Angeles MOCA.

Hilary Pecis

The paintings of Hilary Pecis consist of intimate portraits of the space around her, snapshots of the moments most familiar and serene in the artist's life. Visions of pets, bookshelves, refrigerator magnets, and assemblage of artist materials, are just some of the many documented items in Pecis's paintings. Her scenes are calm and still, denoting a sense of stability whilst conveying an honest reflection of the many simple spaces that while often overlooked are the foundation of one's idea of home. Hilary Pecis received her BFA and MFA from California College of the Arts and has exhibited in galleries around the world.

Jesse Willenbring

Jesse Willenbring creates abstract paintings, recalling modernism aesthetics with a contemporary flare. He composes graphic shapes and lines interspersed onto fields of sketchy brushstrokes. Typically using a balanced, almost pastel, color palette, Willenbring traces histories of the city and various other narratives on his canvases.

Willenbring earned his BFA and MFA from Hunter College in New York.

James Jean

The paintings and illustrations of James Jean evolved out of his commercial work as a DC Comics cover artist and advertising artist for major international publications. Wishing to explore his painting, he transitioned to fine art with pieces that are narratively fantastical and almost mythic in nature. His work is influenced by Chinese silk scroll paintings, Japanese wood-block prints, and dreamy landscapes born from his own imagination.

His critically acclaimed illustration and fine art career has led him to collaborate with a number of different companies, including Prada and Apple.

About the Curator

Andrew Schoultz is the curator for *LA intersections*. He will also complete a permanent mural to coincide with the opening of the exhibition, which will adorn the exterior of the Fabien Castanier Gallery.

Sourcing inspiration from 15th Century German map making and Indian miniature paintings, Andrew Schoultz's frenetic imagery depicts an ephemeral history bound to repeat itself. In his mixed-media works, notions of war, spirituality and sociopolitical imperialism are reoccurring themes, which shrewdly parallel an equally repetitive contemporary pursuit of accumulation and power. Intricate line work, painting, metal leaf and collage twist and undulate under Schoultz's meticulous hand, ranging from intimately sized wall works to staggering murals and installations.

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A catalog of work will be available. Please contact the gallery for any press inquiries.

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