

Angel Otero
New Paintings
November 7, 2015-December 31, 2015
201 Chrystie Street, New York
#angelotero

Opening Reception: Saturday, November 7, 6-8PM



Dreaming of the Ordinary, 2015, oil paint and fabric collaged on canvas, 96 x 145.5 x 3 in, 243.8 x 369.6 x 7.6 cm. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, October 30, 2015—For his third solo exhibition with **Lehmann Maupin**, Puerto Rican artist **Angel Otero** will present a group of new paintings. Dedicated to continuing the tradition of abstraction, Otero is an innovator in the genre. He begins with a reference to an object or image that holds personal or historical significance, and then abstracts the reference through his process-based approach, resulting in work that is visually autonomous from the original imagery. **The artist will be present for an opening reception at the gallery on Saturday, November 7 from 6-8PM.**

The result of constant experimentation, Otero's paintings begin by reproducing reference images in thick oil paint on a large plate of glass. Once the paint is almost dry, the artist scrapes the "oil skin" from the surface, flaying, draping, and collaging it across a large canvas, resulting in a wholly new composition. In past work, the paint

more dramatically creased, pinched, and folded as the artist piled layer upon layer of oil skins on the canvas, further abstracting the image; these new works are relatively flat.

While he previously began with reproduced iconic paintings as a way to engage with the history of abstract art, these new works demonstrate Otero's relationship with the medium of painting more generally, rather than his relationship to art history or one specific artist. The original source image is no longer relevant in the outcome of the final artwork. As a result, Otero refines his unique visual language by exploring the relationship between representation and abstraction in order to expand the traditional genre of abstract painting.

Otero draws inspiration from literature and music, as well as personal memories, photographs, and family memorabilia. In addition to Old and Modern masters, Otero has also cited Jorge Luis Borges, Julio Cortazar, Arto Lindsay, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Jeanette Winters, as influences of his practice.

Otero's work will be the subject of major solo exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Museum in Houston in 2016 and at the Dallas Contemporary in 2017.

About the artist

Angel Otero (b. 1981, Puerto Rico) received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2009. Past solo exhibitions and projects include *Material Discovery*, SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah and SCAD Hong Kong (2013); and *Angel Otero*, Contemporary Art Museum, Raleigh (2012). His work has also been included in *Queens International 2012: Three Points Make a Triangle*, Queens Museum, New York (2012); and *The [S] Files*, El Museo del Barrio's 6th Biennial (2011), among other group exhibitions. Otero is the recipient of the Leonore Annenberg Fellowship in the Visual Arts. His work can be found in collections at DePaul University Museum, Chicago; Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Kansas; and the North Carolina Museum of Art, Raleigh. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

About Lehmann Maupin

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

Current & Upcoming Exhibitions

Billy Childish, *flowers, nudes and birch trees: New Paintings 2015*, through October 31, 2015, New York, West 22nd Street

Nari Ward, *Breathing Directions*, through November 1, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street

Adriana Varejão, through November 21, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Teresita Fernández, November 6, 2015-January 2, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street

Shirazeh Houshiary, November 25, 2015-January 9, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

Catherine Opie, January 14-February 27, 2016, New York, West 22nd Street & Chrystie Street

For more information on Angel Otero or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan at +1 212 255 2923, or visit lehmannmaupin.com.

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