

KOHN GALLERY

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TOM LADUKE *CANDLES AND LASERS*

Opening Reception: Saturday, April 11th, 6pm – 8pm
Exhibition on view through May 20th 2015



Tom LaDuke, *Polyrhythmic Looping*, 2014, acrylic and glitter on canvas over panel, 53 x 95 x 2 inches

Los Angeles, California – Kohn Gallery is pleased to present Los Angeles-based artist Tom LaDuke's first solo exhibition at the gallery, titled *Candles and Lasers*. The exhibition features small to large-scale paintings, and a selection of sculptures meticulously carved from elemental materials such as graphite, pewter and salt. These pieces reference the topography of a range of subject matter from Manet's *The Dead Toreador* (1864), to a half scale portrait of the artist's head nestled, as if sleeping, atop a found rock.

The sculptures and paintings in *Candles and Lasers* utilize the conventions of these mediums to underscore the various conditions that work to obscure understanding and perception. This body of work will continue LaDuke's existential investigation into the nature and location of the Self, as viewers are self-consciously confronting objects that

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intentionally veil their subject matter.

Tom LaDuke's painstakingly constructed paintings toy with the boundaries of perception and recognition. Layering representational scenes (ranging from the history of film to the history of painting) with bold abstraction, LaDuke negotiates between the conceptual, material, spatial, and formal issues inherent in painting. Abstract expressions dance atop the most precisely rendered compositions, flattening the layers of the painting to a single plane. These fresh daubs of paint complicate the viewer's ability to dive into the familiar representations, underscoring the artist's exploration of reality versus perceived reality.

About Tom LaDuke

LaDuke was raised in Los Angeles and received his MFA from the Art Institute of Chicago. His works are in the permanent collections of the Guggenheim, New York; MOCA, Los Angeles; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo; Portland Art Museum; Speed Art Museum, Louisville; and the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, Overland Park, among others. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

About Kohn Gallery

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 Yorkbased 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, Ryan McGinness, Rosa Loy, Lita Albuquerque, Dennis Hollingsworth, Mark Ryden, James Nares, Eddie Martinez, and Troika.

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

Join the "Tom LaDuke: Candles and Lasers" conversation on social media by mentioning @KOHNGallery and using the #LaDukeKohn hashtag when posting.

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