

galerie frank elbaz.

Kaz Oshiro

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Kaz Oshiro (born in 1967, Okinawa, Japan ; lives and works in Los Angeles)

Creating sculptures from paintings, Kaz Oshiro pushes the limits of both mediums, merging abstraction, conceptualism, and representation. He paints with acrylic and Bondo (an auto body repair filler) on canvas, and then recreates everyday objects by piecing these canvases together to make three-dimensional forms. The resulting artwork looks like a readymade object or sculpture from the front, but the back-side - which Oshiro intentionally makes visible - reveals itself as an assemblage of canvases. « I see myself as a still-life painter trying to become an abstract painter », he has said. Oshiro described his most recent works, a series of bent canvases that extend into three-dimensional space, as a « still life of broken painting ». The conceptual and spatially drive nature of his art suggests a synthesis of work by Andy Warhol, Donald Judd, and John McCracken.





Kaz Oshiro

Nothing New Under the Sun

2023.11.18–2024.01.13



Nothing New Under the Sun, 2023, MAKI Gallery

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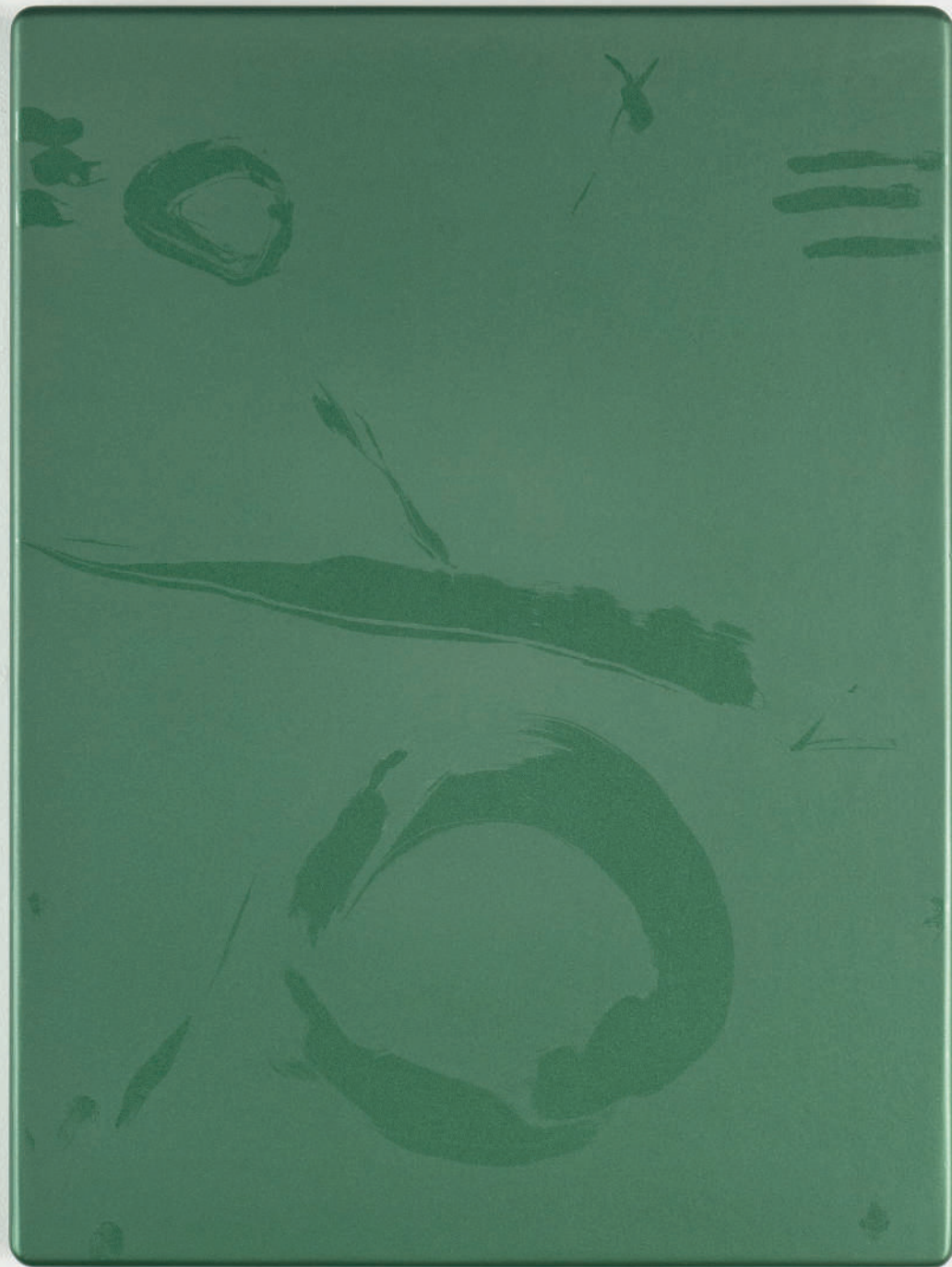
At first glance, *California Calligraphy* may seem to deviate from Oshiro's previous works, which meticulously replicate everyday objects down to the finest details. Nevertheless, the artist has always considered the dust, stains, and scratches he intentionally applies to amplifiers, trash bins, and steel beams as part of his abstract expression. Oshiro firmly acknowledges the transformative impact the Abstract Expressionist movement and the "death of painting" had on the medium—yet as he continues to seek the true essence and meaning of painting, he maintains the belief that the ultimate purpose of art is the pursuit of abstract ideas. His practice represents a continuous endeavor to create work that aligns with such inner convictions, and this new series embodies the artist's unwavering commitment to abstraction more strongly than ever before.

In contrast to Western art tradition, which emphasizes an artist's individual style, Oshiro places great value on the corporeality of using his own body to make art, prioritizing the physical act of creation over a desire for recognition by others. From a reluctance to boldly assert his artistic ideas, Oshiro purposefully forges pieces that may not immediately be recognized as works of art—a practice the artist openly refers to as "passive abstract expression."

This exhibition signifies an important milestone in Oshiro's extensive creative journey, one culminating in the realization of—in his view—an ideal form of abstract painting. While his approach may diverge from conventional Western art paradigms, the energy he has invested in his creations is immeasurable. Through his deep understanding of art history, keen conceptual insight, steadfast devotion to abstract expression, and impeccable technique, the artist has given life to a distinctive body of work that could only be crafted by his hands alone.

Please take this opportunity to experience Oshiro's captivating new works, which quietly yet compellingly challenge the very nature of art through their sheer existence, and invite viewers to explore the liminal space between abstraction and representation, where consciousness and subconsciousness intersect.

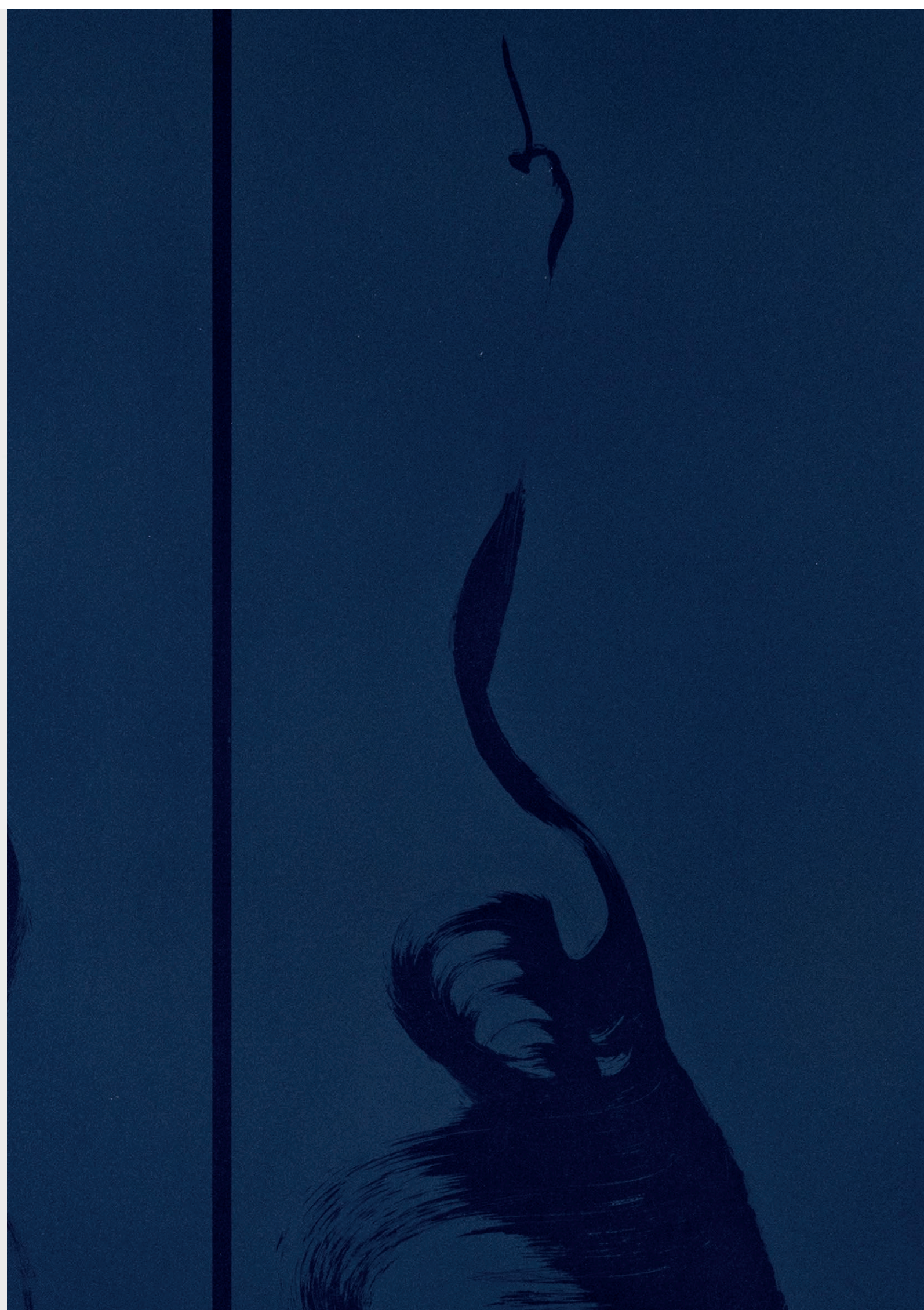
Written by Haruna Takeda



California Calligraphy (Black Sun), 2023
Acrylic and polyurethane on stretched canvas
61.0 x 46.0 x 5.5 cm
Unique



California Calligraphy (Smoke and Mirrors I), 2023
Acrylic and polyurethane on stretched canvas
61.0 x 46.0 x 5.5 cm
Unique



Kaz Oshiro | *Republic*
2020.09.05 - 10.24



Republic, 2020, Maki Gallery, Tokyo.
Exhibition view by Naohiro Utagawa.



Republic, 2020, Maki Gallery, Tokyo.
Exhibition view by Naohiro Utgawa.



Three Steel Beams, 2016
Acrylic on canvas
33 x 244 cm (13 x 96 1/8 in.)
Unique
OSH2016-15



File Cabinets, 2012
Acrylic and Bondo on stretched canvas
145,4 x 39,4 x 46,4 cm (57 1/4 x 15 1/2 x 18 1/4 in.)
Unique
OSH2012-2569



Lateral File Cabinet (Almond #2), 2015
Acrylic and Bondo on stretched canvas
105,4 x 91,4 cm (41 1/2 x 36 in.)
Unique
OSH2015-738



Untitled (Steel Beam), 2017
Acrylic and Bondo on canvas
367,5 x 35 x 15,4 cm (144 5/8 x 13 3/4 x 6 1/8 in.)
Unique
OSH2017-1252



Steel Unforged, 2017, galerie frank elbaz, Paris
Exhibition view by Raphael Fanelli



Steel Unforged, 2017, galerie frank elbaz, Paris
Exhibition view by Raphael Fanelli



Dumpster (Black with residue), 2014
Exhibition view by Olivier Cablat. La Panacée, 2017 Montpellier, France.



Diffuse Reflection, 2015, galerie frank elbaz, Paris
Exhibition view by Zarko Vijatovic



Diffuse Reflection, 2015, galerie frank elbaz, Paris
Exhibition view by Zarko Vijatovic



Fender Showman Amp with Cabinet #1 (Screaming Hand), 2002
Acrylic and bondo stretched over wood, in 2 parts
121,9 x 74,9 cm (48 x 29 1/2 in.)
Unique
OSH2002-314



Marshall Amp (Freak), 2000
Acrylic and bondo stretched canvas
47 x 54,6 x 24,1 cm (18 1/2 x 21 1/2 x 9 1/2 in.)
Unique
OSH20002-455





Zeuxis-pop, 2011, Villa du Parc, Centre d'art contemporain, Annemasse



Zeuxis-pop, 2011, Villa du Parc, Centre d'art contemporain, Annemasse

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Born in 1967 in Okinawa, Japan. Lives and works in Los Angeles, USA.

Education

2002 MFA, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, USA

1998 BA, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Solo Exhibitions

2023 *Nothing New Under the Sun*, MAKI Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2020 *Republic*, MAKI Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
Kaz Oshiro: 96375, Nonaka-Hill Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2017 *Steel Unforged*, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
A STANDARD, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2015 *Kaz Oshiro*, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Diffuse Reflection, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France

2014 *Chasing Ghosts*, LACMA, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2013 *Logical Disjunction*, Galerie Perrotin, Hong Kong, HKG
Still Life, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2011 *Sunset Drone*, Las Cienegas Project, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Zeuxis pop, Villa du Parc, Annemasse, France

2010 *Sundowner*, Galerie Perrotin, Miami, FL, USA (in collaboration with galerie frank elbaz)
Home Anthology, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
Home Anthology 2, Las Cienegas Project, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Never Can Say Goodbye, Tower Records Store in collaboration with No Longer Empty, New York, NY, USA

2009 *False Gestures*, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
Setting Sun, Yvon Lambert Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2008 *Kaz Oshiro, Sorry We're Closed*, Galerie Rodolphe Janssen, Brussels, Belgium
Untitled Recordings, Clear Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2007 *Common Noise*, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
Room Acoustics, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan
Kaz Oshiro, Paintings and Works on Paper, 1999-2006, Las Vegas Art

Museum, Las Vegas, NV, USA

New Works, Project Room, Yvon Lambert Gallery, New York, NY, USA

2006 *Driving with Dementia*, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA

Subpar, Steven Wolf Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA

2005 *Project Series 27*, Kaz Oshiro, Pomona College Museum of Art, Claremont, CA, USA

Drone, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA

Room Acoustics, Tokyo Hipsters Club, Inart Gallery, Tokyo, Japan

2004 *Out-n-In*, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA

2002 *Pet Sounds, Vol. 13: No Sound, More Alchemy*, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Pop Tatari (Curse of Pop Music), Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA

Group Exhibitions (selection)

2024 *In Focus*, Centraal Museum, Utrecht, Netherlands

2022 Quebec City Biennial, curated by Steven Matijcio, Quebec City, QC, Canada

Still Alive, Aichi Triennale, Aichi Center of Arts, Nagoya, Japan

2020 *Semblance Sunshine*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA, USA

2018 *Conceptual Feedback*, Honor Fraser Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2017 *THE FIRST KARAOKE: ENKA!*, Installation by Bruce Yonemoto, Doizaki Gallery, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Working Title: 10,020,000, Sam Francis Gallery, Crossroads School, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Retour sur Mulholland Drive, Le minimalisme fantastique, La Panacée, Montpellier, France

2016 *David X Levine, Kaz Oshiro, Xochi Solis: Extended Technique*, MASS Gallery, Austin, TX, USA

Southland, Charlie James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

2015 *Space Between*, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY, USA

2014 *Heart-Shaped Box*, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
Transmogrification of the Ordinary, Angles Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Between Critique and Absorption : Contemporary Art and Consumer Culture, Haggerty Museum of Art, Milwaukee, WI, USA

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- 2013 *Lifelike*, The Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA, USA
Spook Rock Road, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
Lifelike, Blanton Museum of Art, Austin, TX, USA
- 2012 *American exuberance*, Rubell Family Collection / Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, FL, USA
Simulacrum, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH, USA
Okinawa Art in NY, The Nippon Gallery at the Nippon Club, New York, NY, USA
Bruce Conner and the Primal Scene of Punk Rock, Museum of Contemporary Art, Denver, CO, USA
Lifelike, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN, USA
Notations: The Cage Effect Today, Hunter College, New York, NY, USA
Twelve, West Los Angeles College Art Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Object Fictions, James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY, USA
Frieze New York, galerie frank elbaz, New York, USA
The Cage Effect Today, curated by Joachim Pissarro, The Hunter College / Times Square Gallery, New York, NY, USA
- 2011 The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse, Miami, FL, USA
Art Basel Miami Beach, galerie frank elbaz, Miami Beach, FL, USA
American exuberance, Rubell Family Collection / Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, FL, USA
California Art : Selections from the Fredrick Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Greater LA, New York, NY, USA
Conversation with Mathieu Mercier, Takaaki Izumi, Yuki Kimura, Soshi Matsunobe, Kaz Oshiro, Koki Tanaka about Abstract Objects, Super Window Project, Kyoto, Japan
New Image Sculpture, McNay Art Museum, San Antonio, TX, USA
Berlin-Paris, galerie Frank Elbaz at Wentrup Gallery, Berlin, Germany
L'Insoutenable légèreté de l'être, Yvon Lambert Gallery, Paris, France
- 2010 *The Artist's Museum*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Even Better Than the real Thing, Wignall Museum of Contemporary Art at Chaffey College, Rancho Cucamonga, CA, USA
Crosstown Traffic, Wentrup, Berlin, Germany
- 2009 *Une exposition de peinture*, Zoo Galerie, Nantes, France
Extending the Line, Fine Art Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Rogue Wave '09, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA, USA
- 2008 *Like Lifelike : Painting in the Third Dimension*, UC Riverside, Sweeney Art Gallery, Riverside, CA, USA
Call + response, MUDAM, a series of events hosted by artist Candice Breitz, Luxembourg
- One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now, Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Lure, galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
Less is less, more is more, that's all, CAPC-Musée d'art contemporain, Bordeaux, France
Some Paintings, Track 16 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
Specific Objects, Johann König Gallery, Berlin, Germany
- 2007 *If Everybody Had An Ocean: Brian Wilson*, Tate St. Ives, UK & CAPC-Musée d'art contemporain, Bordeaux, France
Beneath the Underdog, Gagosian Gallery New York, NY, USA
Forged Realities, Universal Studios, Beijing, China
One Way or Another : Asian American Art Now, Berkeley Art Museum, Berkeley, CA, USA
- 2006 *Red Eye: Rubell Collection*, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL, USA
One Way or Another : Asian American Art Now, Asia Society and Museum, New York, NY, USA
Smoke and Mirrors: Deception in Contemporary Art, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL, USA
Banquet : A Feast for the Senses, Pacific Asia Museum, Pasadena, CA, USA
Deaf « from the Audible to the Visible », galerie frank elbaz, Paris, France
Tina B, Praha, Czech Republic
- 2005 *Thing: New Sculpture from Los Angeles*, UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Re-form, Northern Illinois University Art Gallery, Chicago, IL, USA
2004 Rock, Mark Moore Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2004 *Giggles*, Angstrom Gallery, Dallas, TX, USA
Nothing Compared to This, Contemporary Art Center Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH, USA
California Biennial, Orange County Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA, USA
Boundary Creatures, Kansas City Jewish Museum, Kansas City, KS, USA
Swiss Institute, New York, NY, USA
- 2003 *2003 Summer Program*, Apex Art, New York, NY, USA
Group Show, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
Redux, Luckman Gallery, California State University, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- 2002 *Group Show*, Rosamund Felsen Gallery, Santa Monica, CA, USA
- 2001 *A Proper Aesthetics of the War*, Gallery Zero One, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Lazy Susan, Long Beach City College Fine Arts Gallery, Long Beach, CA, USA

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I'm in This Show, Fifty Bucks Gallery, Los Angeles, CA, USA
LA, CA, Newspace, Los Angeles, CA, USA

Public Collections

CNAP, Paris, France
Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation, Los Angeles, CA, USA
The Margulies Collection at the Warehouse, Miami, FL, USA
Nora Eccles Harrison Museum of Art, Logan, UT, USA
Oakland Museum of California, Oakland, CA, USA
Peter Norton Family Foundation, Santa Monica, CA, USA
Rubell Family Collection / Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, FL, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA, USA
Zabludowicz Collection, London, UK