

POSTMASTERS

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for immediate release:

January 25 – March 8, 2014

AUSTIN LEE

OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK OK

Postmasters is pleased to present a show of paintings by Austin Lee, the artist's first solo exhibition after receiving MFA from Yale University in 2013. The exhibition is titled *OK OK*.

Painting is a strange thing to do but so is everything else.
Austin Lee

Austin Lee's paintings are familiar, yet strange, otherworldly, yet immersive. While they are often figurative, there is a level of abstraction that takes the simplest and most recognizable of forms into another space, disassociated from the tangible. We find ourselves looking at figures, shapes, and colors that hover between the opposing forces from which they are brought forth, namely, the physical and the digital, representative and abstract, graphical and human. These binaries become fluid through the contrasting qualities that comprise Lee's paintings: stark and supple, opaque and lucid, stable and fleeting.

Lee often begins his process by using an iPad to make digital drawings. Drawing, perhaps one of the quickest ways for an artist to translate a thought into something visual, is made almost immediate by sketching with the iPad. Drawing and erasing become swiping and undoing, enabling the ability to endlessly render and alter images. This method of working is inherently more visceral than analog drawing techniques, in that the hand is actually freer, unrestrained, and spontaneous, yielding entirely expressive results from what seem to be the simplest of lines. Mistakes, chance, and the accidental thus become central to Lee's playful and curious explorations on and through the screen, and subsequently on canvas.

Lee's paintings exhibit these very qualities, as he translates the uninhibited and intuitive process of gestural mark-making from one media to another. Both modes of working capture the quickness and impulsiveness of his movements; yet painting instills the process with slowness, facilitating moments of reflection and self-awareness, while at the same time opening up another channel for exploring the intentional and the incidental.



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It has been noted that Lee's paintings look very different when viewed on the screen versus when seen in person.¹ This is necessarily true for many, if not all, art "objects" today, which inevitably end up online in some form or another. Yet, the fact that there is such a distinct contrast between the screen image versus the physical object evinces the unique quality Lee captures in his paintings. Living through the screen has become so familiar that it has almost become an afterthought because of its ubiquity. Lee revitalizes our awareness of the screen, creating an almost ineffable plane of floating forms that invites immersive and introspective viewing. Ultimately, Lee's paintings reflect a new sort of visuality, elucidating our technologically informed way of thinking, seeing, and being in the world.

-Kerry Doran, New York, January 2014



Postmasters Gallery
located at 54 Franklin Street in
Tribeca
Tuesday through Saturday 11 – 6
with Thursday hours extended to
8pm
Please contact Magdalena Sawon or
Paulina Bebecka with questions
and image requests
postmasters@thing.net
www.postmastersart.com

¹ Marina Galperina, "Artist's Notebook: Austin Lee," *Animal*, December 23, 2013,