

# Adam Ross

## La fin du monde

June 16 – July 28, 2007

Galerie Jean-Luc & Takako Richard is pleased to present a series of new paintings by Adam Ross, the Los Angeles based painter, in his second solo show at the gallery.

Interest in America's West Coast art scene in recent years has been phenomenal, which has, in part, been attributed to its sunny open spaces and cities. Whether there is any truth in this as an influence on the artists living and working in California is a debatable point, but it serves as a useful point of entry into Adam Ross' landscape paintings.

Ross' earlier works certainly suggest clear, cloudless skies and warm, fuggy air created with immaculately worked oil and alkyd grounds over which Ross picks out forms resembling futuristic gigantic cityscapes. It is easy to see how a constant flow of Sci-Fi pumped out by the LA film studios and the strange vernacular architecture of the region have influenced and formed Ross' creative vision.

Ross' recent works have moved on from quietness to violence. Instead of quietly standing vertically the buildings now have disturbing shapes. The harmonious palette of blue has been replaced with sulphurous yellows, bloody reds, acrid blue-black swirls and fiery red suggesting something much filthier and dreadful. The mediated images of burning oil fields and the smoky air above bomb damaged buildings in Baghdad and Basra replayed over and over on the US networks have certainly had an effect on Ross' painterly sensibilities.

The painterly flourishes in Ross' works are however, distinctively American in origin. Ross is enjoying again the lush paintwork of the Abstract expressionists which has led to a distinctive loosening of the brushwork in his new works. The clinical perfection of his previous work with such a flat painting gets new material and effects: Ross is now even pouring, rolling, stippling and palette knifing the paint onto the canvas.

Previously the artist shared with us his wonder at the sight of the incessant activity and gigantism of cities. Today his cities are places focusing all dangers. Ross' works are widely collected and he is featured in large number of public collections including The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County Museum, The Museum of San Diego and the Orange County Museum of Contemporary Art.