

YEK *Deserts and Cities Arrangements*

October 28 - December 10, 2005

Galerie Jean-Luc & Takako Richard will be successively exhibiting the work of two young artists from Las Vegas: Yek and Tim Bavington. Both these Op Art painters make vibrant use of color and space.

In this second one-man-show in Europe, Yek brings us a wholly new kind of work. He has forsaken square formats with curved frames and central perspectives for more elusive perspectives on flat frames of varying shapes. The exhibition includes seven paintings in broad (mostly 213 cm wide) and slender (61 to 91 cm high) formats. The frame shapes are all different, five-sided with curved or straight lines. Each composition is limited to two or three distinctly demarcated areas. Nearly all the surfaces are airbrushed in perfect, light gradations. In *Arrangement #52*, a bright pink area in the bottom left fades in a single sweep to pale pink, then the mass broadens and turns to the right while the pale pink turns gently into pale green. In *Arrangement #40* the three areas of color gradually lighten from left to right, a yellowish-green turning to lemon yellow, a Tyrian pink fades to orange, and a dark grey lightens with a touch of blue. Sometimes the areas lighten in the opposite directions. Thus in *Arrangement #44*, the first band of color goes from purplish grey to lilac fading to pink on the left, while the large curved area below goes from sea green on the right to a subtly darker shade on the left – that is, unless this second gradation is merely an optical illusion.

Yek calls this exhibition *Deserts and Cities Arrangements* “given that the works are abstractions of desert and urban landscapes”. These new acrylics on canvas are a hymn to the great open spaces of the American West as seen from the windscreen of a cruising car. The grey asphalt of the highway winds around the slopes of distant mountains, and sunsets rival the neon lights of casinos. The imaginary journey Yek takes us on also involves science fiction films, racing cars and elegantly decorated surf boards. “Their shapes pay tribute to the minimalist compositions of Ellsworth Kelly and Joe Baer. Their textures and shades also recall the backgrounds of Edward Ruscha’s Words Paintings. Whatever your preferred method of transport, Yek’s wide open spaces take you on a trip with no end in sight (1)”.

Yek, who has been hailed by the art press as being among the “Best of the 90s”, “Best of Op Art” and “Top ten of the Year”, has recently contributed to the *Extreme Abstraction* exhibition at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, New York.

(1) David Pagel: *Swoops, Wedges of Imaginative Travel* in Los Angeles Times, Friday April 9, 2004, p.E34