

Futurism Restated Again - Todd Bourret, Mark Hagen, Jeff Kopp

October 21 - November 5, 2005

Reception: Saturday, October 29 from 6-10pm

RENTAL :: 936 Mei Ling Way

Blum & Poe, in collaboration with **RENTAL**, is pleased to present *Futurism Restated Again*, a group exhibition featuring new work by Todd Bourret, Mark Hagen, and Jeff Kopp. The show's title references the 1983 song *Futurism Restated*, by seminal post-hardcore band The Minutemen. A short text by Todd Bourret will accompany the exhibition.

Todd Bourret's paintings and drawings examine how certain abstract/formal devices originating in postwar American art: blobs, drips, pours, piles, stains, scatters, symmetry, serial repetition, edges, etc. are manifested or used socially in various contemporary situations. His recent subjects, mud-covered rock fans and concert stage shows, are like the paintings themselves - caught between states of abstraction and representation. Individual identity is obliterated sublimely and abjectly through the material effects of light and earth. Recent exhibitions include *The Great Outdoors*, Angels Gallery, *Remembering*, Sweeny Art Gallery, University of California Riverside, and *Harvester Reaper*, Margo Victor Presents.

Mark Hagen employs Conceptual Art's investment in information dispersion (pamphlets, text, posters, documentary-style video, photography), but his practice is essentially sculptural. Aesthetically informed by the clean pop of skateboard design and the radical spirit of D.I.Y. culture, Hagen's work cuts a wide swath. Obscure subjects in the areas of archeology, geology, biology, and physics, are invoked as metaphors for various issues or problems concerning the making, display and consumption of the art object. Hagen's recent works draw inspiration from temporal and spatial contradictions, cyclic time, and what he calls "the problem of orientation in a directionless field". He has recently exhibited in *Post No Bills*, White Columns, New York (curated by Mathew Higgs), and *Strange Animal*, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions.

In Jeff Kopp's recent sculptures, elements in the landscape of Los Angeles collide in contradictory and fantastic combinations. Made from workday materials, the sculptures do double duty as art historical and socio-cultural referents. At the same time, they suggest and then frustrate narrative and formal logic. The work brings to mind both Minimalism's fondness for industrial materials and highly finished surfaces, and the anything goes, bricolaged visual language of the marginalized small businesses - 98 cent stores, taco trucks, liquor stores, check cashing places - that populate the neighborhoods where artists tend to live in Los Angeles. He has recently participated in *The 26th Annual Benefit Auction*, Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions, and *Bedwetter Show*, Paxico Gallery (curated by Christopher Russell).