

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Ian Kimmerly

As We Wander, We Are Closer

December 8, 2016 – January 28, 2017

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce “As We Wander, We Are Closer,” an exhibition of new work by Ian Kimmerly. Kimmerly’s generously layered paintings provocatively combine figuration and abstraction. Figurative elements, especially faces, are rendered photorealistically, scraped away, and then submerged within a milieu of open spaces, abstract passages, and textured daubs of paint.

Kimmerly explains that technology’s impact on our interpersonal relationships has played a role in the creation of this body of work. Smart phones and social media, among other tools, have heightened our ability to remain constantly connected with one another, yet the type of connection facilitated is largely fleeting and immaterial. It exists in contradistinction to true forms of conversation, which are predicated on an open and sustained dialogue that goes beyond surface-level exchange. As the show’s title suggests, however, letting ourselves wander and drift in unstructured ways and embracing solitude can allow us to go deeper and recharge, equipping us with more to give when we finally return to those interactive moments.

The paintings themselves loosely chart this type of open engagement with the world. Their layered constructions create matrices of form, gesture, texture, and color through which to move and discover manifold relationships. Despite the presence of figures—whose blurred, sgraffito quality is reminiscent of Gerard Richter’s aesthetic—the paintings are neither overtly narrative nor readily digestible. Kimmerly notes his interest in the psychoanalytical concept of subject-object differentiation, which is the state immediately before recognition. When you see something for the first time, you apprehend it at an elemental level. Only after evaluating its material profile can you begin to see it a different way, and even start to name it. These initial stages of processing rely on an openness of perspective and are magnified in Kimmerly’s paintings, which encourage the viewer to take time to work through them and find connections that resolve as meaning.

The painting *As We Wander, We Are Closer* (2016) features an image of a couple with their faces pressed closely to each other. Although the nature of their relationship is unknown, their pose is one of undeniable intimacy. Exploring the effects of seriality, Kimmerly repeats this image three times at different scales, divesting the private moment of any overt preciousness. The changes in scale create a sense of depth and motion, as if the image were flying toward you—an ephemeral bit of data hurtling along the information superhighway. While digital blips in the form of abstract gestures can be seen as obscuring various parts of their faces, it is also possible to read this “noise” as being dispersed as part of a larger process of revelation and formation: for all their weaknesses, digital technologies also harbor great potential. Because their presence in our lives impacts how we view ourselves, our relationships, and our world, they should, in theory, prompt us to reconsider how we want to live our lives. Such shifts in gaze are played upon in *Twofold* (2016), in which primarily white and peach-toned paints have been dragged horizontally across the eyes of three figures. Several short, dark strokes, however, have been applied on top of the lighter colors, as if transposed eyes, viewing the world not only from a new angle but also through a different lens.

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Ian Kimmerly was born in Northport, Michigan, in 1980. He earned his BFA from the University of Michigan in 2002 and his MFA from the University of Arizona in 2005. He has exhibited both internationally and nationally, including most recently at the Richmond Art Center, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships. This will be his second solo show at the Dolby Chadwick Gallery.

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Ian Kimmerly

EDUCATION

- 2005 MFA, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- 2004 Academy of Fine Arts and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia
- 2002 BFA, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2001 London School of Economics, London, England

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 As We Wander, We Are Closer, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2013 Continuous Wave, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 Mediated Memories, Cottage Industry Painting Salon, San Francisco, CA
- 2008 Scenery, Della Brown Taylor Gallery, West Virginia State University, WV
- 2005 Arrivals/Departures, Shane House Gallery, Tucson, AZ

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Family Portraits, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 2015 Microcosmos, Gallery 621, Benicia, CA
SFO/SNA, Coastline Community College, Newport, CA
Faculty Exhibition, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 Here and Now, City College of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Point of No Return, Southern Exposure, San Francisco, CA
- 2011 K Imperial Fine Arts, San Francisco, CA
Visual Aid's Big Deal, SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA
Arkansas State University, Fine Arts Center Gallery, Jonesboro, AR
Staff Infection, San Francisco Art Institute, CA
- 2010 Paint Snob, 500X Gallery, Dallas, TX
Artists Leading Artists: Faculty and Staff Exhibition, San Francisco Art Institute
- 2009 Dualities, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Sebastopol, CA
- 2008 Landscape, Nature and Space, Bucheon Gallery, San Francisco, CA
McLennan Community College CSC Art Gallery, Waco, TX
- 2007 Parchman Stremmel Gallery, San Antonio, TX
Home, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
SFAI Now, Red Ink Studios, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 Save the Date, Dinnerware Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ
Telling Time, Dinnerware Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ
H2O, Dinnerware Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ
Art One Gallery, Scottsdale, AZ
Ward 6 Gallery, Tucson, AZ
Group Show, Dinnerware Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

- 2005 Hotel Congress, Tucson, AZ
MFA Exhibition, University of Arizona Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ
Salon de Refuses, Dinnerware Contemporary Art, Tucson, AZ
- 2004 Student Biennale, Academy of Fine Art and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia
Nové Miesto Galéria, Poprad, Slovakia
Placebo, Academy of Fine Art and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia
Fremont House of the University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- 2003 Wedge, Shane House Gallery, Tucson, AZ
- 2002 MFA Candidates, Student Union Gallery, Tucson, AZ
Casa de Cultura, Nogales, Mexico
BFA Exhibition, Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2001 Jean Paul Slusser Gallery, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

PUBLICATIONS

- 2015 Hidden Pictures, VENTRILOQUIST Quarterly Journal, Vol. II
- 2013 Ian Kimmerly: 'Continuous Wave, San Francisco Chronicle, Kimberly Chun, June 13.
Artist's Statement: Ian Kimmerly on Why Painting Is His 'Crazy Obsession, SF Weekly, Jonathan Curiel, June 21.
Ian Kimmerly @ Dolby Chadwick, Fecal Face, Rachel Ralph, June 19.
S.F. Agenda: Ian Kimmerly, California Home and Design, Dara Kerr, June 3.
Ian Kimmerly and 'Continuous Wave, Fine Art Connoisseur, Jeffrey Carlson, June 5.
Week's Hottest Events: Continuous Wave, 7x7 SF, Holly McDede, June 3.
A Lingering Tour: Three Pieces Worth Spending Some Time With, SF Weekly, Jonathan Curiel, June 19.
- 2011 Property Owning Democracy: Rawls and Beyond. Ed. Martin O'Neill and Thad Williamson. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011. (Cover Art)
- 2008 Ian Kimmerly: Emerging Bay Area Painter, Plastic Antinomy
Visual Arts Quarterly, San Francisco and Oakland, CA
- 2007 Home Exhibition Catalog, Root Division; San Francisco, CA
- 2006 New American Paintings, Western Edition, The Open Studios Press; Boston, MA

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2013-Present Instructor of Drawing and Painting, City College of San Francisco
- 2005-06 Adjunct Instructor, University of Arizona, School of Art Introductory and
Advanced Painting, Drawing, Figure Drawing
- 2003-04 Instructor of Record, University of Arizona, School of Art 2-D Foundations:
Color and Design

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

PUBLIC LECTURES

- 2014 University of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA
Santa Fe Art Institute. Santa Fe, NM
- 2008 West Virginia State University, Institute, WV
- 2005 University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ
- 2004 Academy of Fine Art and Design, Bratislava, Slovakia

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Juror's Award, Richmond Art Center, Richmond, CA
- 2014 Artist In Residence, Santa Fe Art Institute, Santa Fe, NM
Artist In Residence, Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT
Sustainable Arts Foundation Grant
Showcase Award, artslant.com
- 2013 Finalist, 2x2 Solos Award, Pro Arts Gallery, Oakland, CA
- 2009 Nomination, SECA Award, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco, CA
- 2006 Vermont Studio Center Fellowship
- 2005 MFA Project Grant, University of Arizona
- 2002-05 Graduate Scholarship, University of Arizona
- 1999-02 Dean's List Award, University of Michigan