

DAVID MALEK

'The Moon Considered as a Planet, a World, and a Satellite'

The paintings of David Malek occupy a unique place in contemporary abstraction, in a tension between often strict geometric forms and manual execution. He always uses an industrial enamel paint that he applies on wood panels or canvas, in many layers, which gradually compose the image and create the shape.

Interested by the light and space, David Malek refers to pop culture, as well as to geometric abstraction or drugs and psychedelic music universes; he is particularly interested in open spaces and new imaginary worlds such as sci-fi movies. He works often with borrowed images - found in films, books or the Internet. Unlike Op Art, which as he says manipulates the viewer's eye, the artist proposes surfaces conducive to a subjective experience of perception.

For his exhibition *The Moon: Considered as a Planet, a World, and a Satellite*, David Malek presents a new series of black and white paintings, which show details of the moon's surface. These paintings directly evoke the question of image construction. The artist has worked on the illustrations of the book *The Moon: Considered as a Planet, a World, and a Satellite*, by J. Carpenter and J. Nasmyth, 1874; in this book, the authors proceeded through various stages to represent the moon: first drawing the reliefs they watched, then they made plaster models and photographed them. The result offers strange and hyper-realistic images, although fully constructed and artificial.

Using strongly transformed images, David Malek manipulates them in a radical way, scanning and enlarging them – keeping the alterations due to the scale's change; he adds an extra filter, as he does not paint directly on the canvas but applies paint through a grid, placing a screen on the canvas. So it is, he says, as if these images had passed through every possible medium – images of the moon observed a century and a half ago, now updated in a very contemporary reflection on the image's status. This series, which also refers to Yves Klein's monochrome reliefs, meets David Malek's interest in science and space and investigates a synthesis between abstraction and photorealism.

David Malek, born in 1977, lives and works in New York. A graduate of Hunter College in New York, his work has been shown in galleries and institutions in Europe and the USA, such as White Columns and Martos Gallery, New York, Rodolphe Janssen in Brussels (exhibitions organized by Bob Nickas), or La Salle de Bains in Lyon (exhibition organized by Jill Gasparina and Caroline Soyez-Petithomme).

Opening : November 17, 6pm – 9pm, in presence of the artist
Exhibition from November 18 to December 23.