

Press Release

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SCOTT WHITE CONTEMPORARY ART presents

New School Cool

Featuring Sculpture by Eric Johnson and Painting by DeWain Valentine

September 10 – November 6, 2010

Opening Reception: Friday, September 10, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

(San Diego, California) - For Immediate Release

EXHIBITION SUMMARY:

Scott White Contemporary Art is pleased to present *New School Cool*, a two-man exhibition featuring the work of Los Angeles based artists Eric Johnson and DeWain Valentine.

The opening reception will take place on Friday, September 10, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in conjunction with *Kettner Nights*. Light refreshments will be served.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Scott White Contemporary Art presents the exhibition *New School Cool*, featuring the recent sculptures by Eric Johnson and new paintings DeWain Valentine. Inspired by the ethereal light, vast spaces, and the exuberant car and surf culture, artists of Los Angeles in the 1960's gave birth to the art movement popularly known as *Light and Space* or *Finish Fetish*. Also dubbed as the *Cool School*, artist DeWain Valentine, along with his contemporaries Craig Kauffman, Robert Irwin and James Turrell, among others, used modern industrial materials as acrylics, resin and lacquer to create impeccable surfaces that captured, reflected and deflected light. Light and Space continued on through the 1970's with next generation artists like Eric Johnson carrying on the legacy, evolving and elevating the movement to new heights.

A half-century later, Valentine continues his life's work, unveiling a new series of paintings with this exhibition. Johnson, now working for over three decades, presents his latest sculptures alongside his colleague, both redefining Cool School in 21st Century.

ARTIST INFORMATION:

DeWain Valentine pioneered the use of high-tech materials such as plastics, polyester resins, plexiglass and fiberglass to capture light and explore spatial perceptions as part the Los Angeles

Light and Space movement. Valentine explored industrial materials to create minimal, reductive forms with slick surfaces and luminous colors that specifically spoke of the ethereal light and vast spaces that characterized the region. Although he is primarily known for his sculptures, Valentine presents a series of new paintings that incorporate resin and acrylic materials, not deviating from his sculptural roots, yet injecting new light into the medium of painting.

Eric Johnson addresses common themes in abstract expressionism as light, color, movement, form and surface, but works in three-dimensions. His sculptures render expressive and vibrant forms of abstraction, paying homage to Light and Space the tradition. Naturally, the movement influenced Johnson as he attended the California Institute of the Arts and UC Irvine through the late 1970's and early 1980's. Using wood and composite resin, Johnson creates purely abstract forms, but conveys an animated quality in the work. By incorporating names of women in their titles (like *Ginger Heart I*, *Aria*, or *Madame Venus*), Johnson hints that these abstract forms are infused with a feminine quality. Amorphous, fluid and sensual, the sculptures come to life as it seduces the viewer with rich color and glossy surfaces.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REQUEST VISUAL MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT
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GALLERY INFORMATION:
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Hours:
Mon – Fri, 9:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Sat, 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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