

***FACE TO FACE:* Recent Abstract Painting**

Exhibition Dates: April 13 - June 30, 1996
Opening Reception: Friday, April 12, 5-7 pm
Gallery Talks: April 13, May 18, June 5 (see text)

The List Visual Arts Center will present the exhibition *Face to Face: Recent Abstract Painting* in all three of its galleries from April 13 through June 30, 1996. An opening reception attended by the participating artists takes place on Friday, April 12 from 5-7 pm, and is free and open to the public.

Much recent art has involved overt social and political topics and has included text or recognizable, often media-based imagery. How is looking at painting without immediate external reference a different experience for the viewer? While this exhibition makes no claim for comprehensivity, the variety of strategies employed by the ten participating artists demonstrate the vitality and relevance of abstraction as it approaches its centennial.

April Hankins's (MA) deft mathematics injects a freshness into the tradition of systematic markmaking. **Fandra Chang's** (CA) hard-edged geometries defy hardnosed analysis in both their mysterious process of production and their equally mysterious effect. **David Ortins's** (MA) geometric shapes find their voices in the bold clarity of primary colors even as they loosen and complicate their contours. **Sandy Walker** (CA) revivifies the tradition of expressionist painting as arena of self-encounter; **Jo Ann Rothschild** (MA) also is driven to create spaces and situations "in which we apprehend ourselves."

-more-

The previous history of abstract painting is a well-stocked hunting ground for virtually all of these artists; **Shirley Kaneda** (NY) and **Fabian Marcaccio** (NY) are perhaps the most forthright in their self-conscious pillaging of motifs and devices to new and sassy effect. **Dona Nelson** (NY) gives herself over to the risky unpredictability of her materials, free-associating as she scavenges from earlier painters and other abstract traditions. The paradoxical inexhaustibility of single color painting is demonstrated by the smart, handsome, and oddly moving conceptual panels of **Byron Kim** (NY). **Prudencio Irazabal's** (NY) magical monochromes belie the literalism of the many superimposed paint layers he leaves exposed along the edges.

Educational events: On Saturday, April 13 at 2 pm join exhibition curators Ron Platt and Helaine Posner in the galleries for an informal discussion with artists April Hankins, Byron Kim and Fabian Marcaccio. In addition, the curators will lead gallery talks of the exhibition on Saturday, May 18 at 2 pm, and Wednesday, June 5 at 6:30 pm. The List Visual Arts Center is publishing a 32-page catalog to accompany *Face to Face*, including an introductory essay, full-color reproductions, and individual written entries, biographies and bibliographic information on each artist. The catalog will be available at our gallery desk or by mail.

The List Visual Arts Center is located in the Wiesner Building (E15) at 20 Ames Street in Cambridge, a five minute walk from the Kendall Square Red Line T-Station.

Please note hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 12-6 pm; Wednesday: 12-8 pm; Saturday & Sunday: 1-5 pm. A member of the curatorial staff is on-call for informal discussion on Wednesdays, between 12:30-1:30. Admission to exhibitions and related events is free. For further information contact Ron Platt at (617) 253-4400.