

# I N M A N G A L L E R Y

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 29, 2013

Inman Gallery is pleased to present  
the exhibitions:

## **Robert Ruello: *Open Other Side***

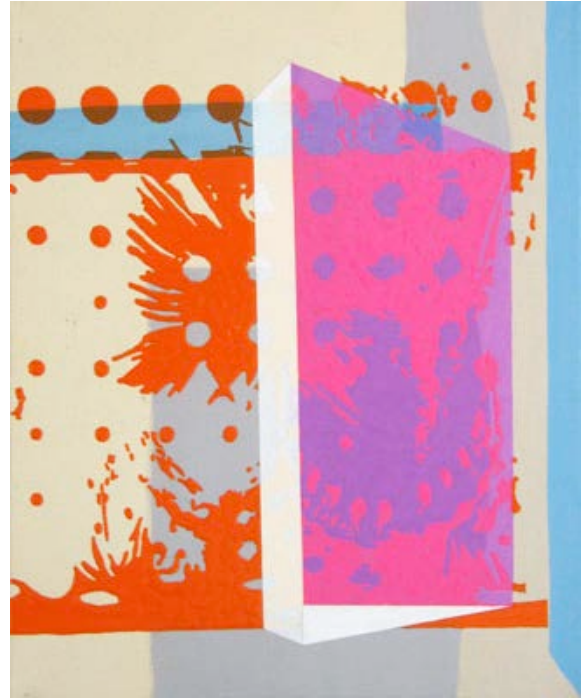
And in the south gallery:

## **Jim Richard: *Excuse The Mess...***

April 5 – May 11, 2013

Opening Reception:  
Friday April 5<sup>th</sup> 6 – 8 pm

*Gallery hours:*  
*Tues. – Sat., 11 – 6 and by appointment*



Robert Ruello, *Unknown Adventures in Unknown Spaces*  
#11, 2013; acrylic and flashe on canvas; 20 x 16 inches

Inman Gallery is pleased to announce two new exhibitions: **Robert Ruello: *Open Other Side*** and, in the south gallery, **Jim Richard: *Excuse The Mess....*** Both exhibitions open Friday, April 5 with a reception for the artists from 6 to 8 pm, and continue on view until May 11, 2013. *Open Other Side* is Ruello's fifth solo exhibition with the gallery since 1992. *Excuse the mess...* is Richard's third solo presentation with Inman Gallery.

**Robert Ruello's** *Open Other Side* features acrylic on canvas paintings from the artist's recent series "Unknown Adventures in Unknown Spaces." Ruello systematically constructs each abstract composition through a series of material and spatial illusions, challenging the viewer to navigate an equivocal set of visual relations.

Ruello begins each painting in Adobe Photoshop, arranging a set of pictorial elements: a saturated color background, transparent rectilinear fields of gray, irregular whitish polygons, and an image reduced to its simplest digital form - a two-tone bitmap - here enlarged to appear as an abstract overall structuring grid. He creates and layers these elements in a nonhierarchical fashion to produce a dynamic composition. Therein each layer appears to be both ground and figure, and the layers together produce the illusion of three-dimensional depth. For example, overlapping trapezoids suggest monoliths in perspective view.

Ruello's translation of his images into paint is similarly less than straightforward. His process inverts traditional painting techniques, building each picture by adding opaque rather than transparent layers of media and then finishing with a primer-colored white. Ruello renders the illusion of transparency with fields of opaque gray that mimic the tones of a transparent wash. The bitmaps appear to be wet silk-screened graphics, but are hand-painted and retouched with a gloss coat. Similarly, Ruello paints other bulging acrylic layers matte so that they recede visually. These reversed expectations and contrasts of matter further disassemble the picture while asserting its presence to the viewer.

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3901 MAIN STREET HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002 PHONE: 713.526.7800 FAX: 713.526.7803 INFO@INMANGALLERY.COM

WWW.INMANGALLERY.COM

Robert Ruello (b. 1958, New Orleans, LA) lives and works in Houston TX. He received an MFA from Columbia University (1997), a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (1987), and a BA in Psychology from Loyola University, New Orleans, LA (1982). From 1987-89 he was an artist-in-residence at the Core Program, Glassell School of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX. His recent exhibitions include solo shows at Lone Star College, Woodlands, TX; Texas A&M University, Commerce, TX; and the group exhibitions *Mapping Galveston*, Galveston Artist Residency, Galveston, TX, and *In Plain Sight*, McClain Gallery, Houston, TX. Ruello is the recipient of a Gottlieb Foundation Grant (2010) and a Dora Maar Residency Fellowship (2009). His work was recently featured in *New American Paintings 102*.



Jim Richard, *Beat*, 2012; oil on paper; 24 x 21 ½ inches

In the south gallery, **Jim Richard's** *Excuse the Mess...* comprises nine oil paintings on linen or paper. In each saturated color image, Richard seamlessly collages photographs of fine art objects into pictures of living rooms decked in 1960s and 70s décor. Geometric op art is nestled next to stuffed animals; surface patterns, textures, and styles mix and match and clash.

Richard equalizes these juxtapositions with uniform paint handling. His approach resembles paint-by-numbers. Clean, high-contrast blocks of color demarcate the contours of each form while also abstracting details.

The works on view also include images of gallery and studio interiors studded with kitsch objects, further confusing distinctions of good and bad taste, and amateur and professional aesthetics. Richard pleurably questions the manner by which fine art is displayed and distinguished within the universe of decorative objects.

Jim Richard (b. 1943, Port Arthur, TX) lives and works in New Orleans, LA. He received a BFA from Lamar State College of Technology in Beaumont, TX (1965) and an MFA from the University of Boulder, CO (1968). He has exhibited his work internationally for the last 25 years, including most recently solo exhibitions at the New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA (2012); Jeff Bailey Gallery (2011); and Inman Gallery (2010 and 2004). Richard received a Pollack-Krasner Foundation Award in Painting (2006) and a Joan Mitchell Foundation Award in Painting (2004). His work is in the collections of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; and the New Orleans Museum of Art, New Orleans, LA, among others.

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## Special Gallery Event: Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 pm

Please join us as artists Robert Ruello and Jim Richard each lead a walkthrough of their respective exhibitions *Open Other Side* and *Excuse The Mess...*

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For more information, please contact the gallery at 713.526.7800 or [info@inmangallery.com](mailto:info@inmangallery.com)