

Jonas Wood

November 20, 2008 – January 3, 2009

October 31, 2008, New York—For his second solo exhibition in New York, Los Angeles-based painter Jonas Wood has put together a group of family portraits, interiors, and still lifes. Wood uses these genres as templates for infusing his work with personal sentiment and meaning. The paintings and watercolor drawings reverberate between their seemingly traditional format, the personally charged choice of subject matter, and their complex formal interlocking and mosaic-like appearance.

The paintings' tilted perspective, their blocky flatness, and the compositional autonomy of the sharp-edged color planes point at Wood's deep-rooted interest in concepts of time and the legibility of nature. The work expresses spatial, colorist, and psychological sharpness as well as emotional intensity, and combines it with a thrill of present-day spectacle that goes beyond any classical restraint. Wood puts our visual world out of its order. He plays with it, dissects it, and reassembles it into a condensed essence of visibility. Wood's paintings are like love letters of a true fan wrapped in an abstract landscape of jewel-like luminous cells.

Anton Kern Gallery and Picturebox have published a 48-page hard-cover publication entitled "SPORTS BOOK." It takes as its subject a small slice of Wood's oeuvre, sports portraits: lanky basketball players, poised baseball players; moments of serene waiting and explosive action. This body of work combines Wood's obvious love of the game with an expert eye for emotion and the thrill of competition. Sport becomes a metaphor of how disparate parts combined create a whole. "SPORTS BOOK" features an essay by Cecilia Alemani and a conversation between the artist and three-time NBA All-Star Rip Hamilton.

Jonas Wood was born in Boston. He received his MFA from the University of Washington. His work has been shown in numerous galleries in the U.S., Germany, and Japan. Wood lives and works in Los Angeles.

The exhibition will open on Thursday, November 20, 2008 and will run through Saturday, January 3, 2009. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Christoph Gerozissis or Michael Clifton at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

Upcoming exhibition: Araki & Anne-Lise Coste (January 8 – February 7, 2009)

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