

Anton Kern Gallery

Robert Janitz *Uptown Campus*

For Immediate Release

December 13, 2018 – January 26, 2019

Opening reception: Thursday, December 13 from 6–8pm

Anton Kern Gallery and CANADA are pleased to present their first solo exhibitions with Robert Janitz. *Uptown Campus* will open at Anton Kern Gallery, on Thursday, December 13th; and *College Robert Janitz* at CANADA opens Friday, December 14th.

Robert Janitz' seemingly simple shapes belie a meticulously built contemplation on painting. He generally begins with grounds of gradient color on stretched linen, which are then covered in strokes of semi-transparent paint whipped with flour. The contrasting opacities and transparencies of his marks create fissures of light. Sometimes the paintings feature torqued rectilinear boxes, or they are composed of fields of brushstrokes alone. While it seems possible that the paintings allude to expressionism, the paintings are in fact carefully delineated sets of "procedures" that provoke awareness rather than sensation.

Janitz asks fundamental questions, such as what is a brush, paint, or even a surface; and how, via his hand, these tools and materials can generate a mark. He handles paint bluntly: the broad strokes are direct and unadorned. Janitz carefully considers and builds the different pictorial planes of each painting, contemplating the two-dimensional work and its ability to create three-dimensional illusion— how color and shadow operate with and against each other.

The show at CANADA will include three benches made from cast concrete that are simultaneously zoomorphic dogs and/or modernist sculpture. Throughout his entire project, simulacra is at play with Janitz. All of his works have a source, either real or imagined, which is the root for the investigative nature of his practice. The way "things" in this body of work resemble things in the world, yet never seem to be direct representations, adds a degree of endlessness to the experience of viewing.

The opportunity to spread paintings between two venues offers Janitz the chance to show central tenets of his practice side by side. At Anton Kern Gallery, he will mostly exhibit the paintings with twisted boxes; at CANADA, mostly the "field" paintings. They are all paintings that ask themselves questions, with titles that give only sly suggestions, and usually induce further inquiry. The space, light, and elements within each painting sum up to a sort of consciousness, an engagement with layers of color and material that conveys a sense of sublimation and heightened mental space.

Robert Janitz lives in works in Brooklyn, NY. He has been included in group exhibitions internationally, including in New York, Paris, Berlin, and Brussels. Recent solo exhibitions include Team Gallery, New York (2017, 2015), Meyer Riegger, Berlin, Germany (2017, 2015, 2014), Shoot The Lobster, New York (2012) and Clearing, New York (2011). Janitz was a professor at École Supérieure Des Beaux Arts, Cherbourg, France in 2009 and a guest lecturer of visual arts at University Paris 8, Paris, France from 2003 to 2007.



Robert Janitz, *The OA*, 2018, oil, wax, flour on linen, 86 x 66 inches.

Gallery Hours

Tuesday through Saturday
10am – 6pm

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