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**PRESS RELEASE:**

Yorgos Stamkopoulos - *New Dawn*  
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"Art is not, it does not exist as part of a continuous presence and of a continuous representation. It does not comprise an event that is, which is there, but unfolds in spacetime in a very specific way, in its own world, which it makes available to the world. It gives while at the same time it withdraws, provides and takes back what it offers, it inspires its -destined to collapse- interpretations."  
(Kostas Axelos, *The Opening towards the Upcoming and the Enigma of Art*)

After his solo show *Positive Pollution* at the Fabio Tiboni gallery in Bologna, Yorgos Stamkopoulos (b. 1983) presents his second solo exhibition entitled *New Dawn*.

Very much influenced by music the artist composes complex colorful landscapes, which he then baptizes with various song titles. Music at this point though is a little bit more than just a point of inspiration. It sets the identity of his works and gives the work a rythmical tempo that painterly translates into parts full of intensity and strongly symmetrical color fields. Bright, full of bold color contrasts, these 'spiritual landscapes' are in conflict with the natural inclination of the human mind towards order and measure. They open a window into a world full of sensations. There is nothing quite about Stamkopoulos' paintings, like there is nothing predictable or strictly pre-planned about them. If these works were words they would be shouting and if they were a song it would definetely be loud.

Up until now, the artist has been working synthetically, analyzing color and then putting it back together in a manner that it may have seemed chaotic but was actually quite methodical and planned. In his new series of works Stamkopoulos makes a huge turn and embraces chance in order to minimize the influence of his conscious upon painting for a result that is rather random and unexpected. The artist paints his canvases in many successive layers that overlap each other, leaving some uncovered and some blind areas which then in turn he covers with color while he repeats the same gesture over and over again. The final composition is not visible to him at any point in this procedure until the end, when the final layer is applied and complete and the color-blind areas are uncovered.

This way Stamkopoulos manages to isolate each layer from the next in order to concentrate in color and in the rythm of his airbrush. The ability to work on each layer separately offers an unprecedented sense of freedom which translates directly to the viewer as core emotion. This clear and simple creative process becomes the vehicle of this complex



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painting experience and defines Stamkopoulos' artistic language which aims to express both emotions and more abstract, metaphysical concepts, which lie outside the realm of consciousness.

Yorgos Stamkopoulos was born in 1983 in Katerini and currently lives and works in Berlin. He studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts and at the Universität der Künste in Berlin and won an Onassis Foundation scholarship. In 2008 he got the "Freedom" for emerging artists prize from the Museo de Calzado in Spain. In 2011 he had his first solo exhibition entitled "Positive Pollution" in Fabio Tiboni gallery in Bologna.

He has participated in various group shows in Greece and abroad, including "Vanishing Point" of Action Field Kodra, Thessaloniki, curated by Katerina Nikou, Galini Notti and Evita Tsokanta, "18 Hours a Day", Kreuzberg Pavillon, Kasel, Germany, curated by Daniel Leander Kannenberg, "7th Berlin Biennale", St. Elisabeth Kirche, Berlin, Germany, "Hosted in Athens", EPASKT, Athens, curated by Daily Lazy Projects, "Aus der Zeit", FrontViews Temporary, Berlin, Germany, curated by Stephan Koehler, "Eberhard Dietzsch Kunstpreis 2012", Geraer Bank, Gera, Germany, "Arte Fiera Bologna 2012", Fabio Tiboni gallery, Bologna, Italy, "Looking Forward", The Breeder, Athens, XYZ Outlet # 10: Stelios Karamanolis & Tula Ploumi "The Collection", XYZ Outlet, Athens, "Demo 2", Dynamo Project Space, Thessaloniki, "The Vitrina Final Show", Openshowstudio, Athens, "Abstract", Gallery in Regierungsviertel, Berlin, Germany, curated by Claus Joress, "The Bar", Kunsthalle Athena, Athens, curated by Marina Fokidis, "REMIX 4", The Forgotten Bar Project, Berlin, Germany, curated by Madeleine Boschan, "Forget Me Not", The Forgotten Bar Project, Berlin, Germany, "Spring Exhibition", Kunsthalle Charlottenborg, Copenhagen, Denmark, curated by Maria LaBelle, "Domestica", Atelier project, Barcelona, Spain, "Rundgang", Berlin University of Arts, Berlin, Germany, "Urban Affairs", Brauerei Friedrichshöhe, Berlin, Germany, "Plötzlich", Uferhalle, Berlin, Germany, curated by Robert Lucander, "Contemporary puzzle", Milledair gallery, Berlin, Germany, "XXIX Certamen de Minicadros", Museo del Calzado, Alicante, Spain, "Gutes Amerika, Böses Amerika", Kunstmuseum Walter, Augsburg, Germany, "Rundgang", Berlin University of the Arts, Berlin, Germany, "artcase.europe", mobility-project A7, Hildesheim, Germany, "Art Meeting", Berlin University of the Arts, Berlin, Germany, curated by Daniela Ehemman, "2nd Fine Arts Student Biennale", Athens and Toronto, Canada, "Cambio Climartico", Seville, Spain, "Atmospheres" project with the National Theatre, Syros, Greece