

**Yorgos Stamkopoulos**, solo show

***Beyond ancient Space***

Duration: 24.09.14 - 1.11.14

CAN gallery is delighted to present Yorgos Stamkopoulos' solo show entitled '*Beyond Ancient Space*'.

Renowned for his vibrant colors and experimental use of paint, the artist in his most recent work turns into a darker pallet and a more painterly, gestural technique which blends blind painting with a set of very fine gestural strokes of spray. Stamkopoulos explores space and the way the human mind and body can experience it through color and depth, while he plays around with this notion of a mystic, almost psychedelic experience that takes place at the studio when the works are being created. In opposition to his previous works which unveil a more process-based approach, related to random occurrences and chaotic juxtaposing of dripping and coloring, Stamkopoulos moves now towards a more organized, mature way of painting. Not interested in representation or narration, his paintings are signifiers of a process as well as the end-result of a state of mind, a cosmic trip.

Influenced by the energetic gestures of abstract expressionism, comic books, music, films, as well as other artworks, Stamkopoulos' fascination with color and process results to a liberating act of continuous experimentation and improvisation. The artist develops his own technique by employing unconventional, nontraditional materials to mask his canvases. His practice begins with the application of pictorial layers on a canvas in reverse order. Once the paint is dry, he then masks and scrapes and paints it over again. The surface is an area of 'controlled experimentation'. His compositions partially accommodate what they have previously erased. Arranged in sequence around the gallery they appear like a comic strip of painterly abstraction. The artist voluntarily puts any idea of representation aside, prioritizing that variable procedure that stretches the limits of the material and focuses on color, form and composition that create fluid atmospheric plains. What we are dealing with here, is without doubt a slow and contemplative process and one of these old Keatsian axioms that 'Beauty is truth, truth beauty'.



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Bio:

Born in 1983 in Katerini, Greece, Yorgos Stamkopoulos studied painting at the Athens School of Fine Arts and at the Universität der Künste in Berlin. He has been awarded a scholarship by the Onassis Foundation, Athens and the "Freedom for Emerging Artists" prize from the Museo de Calzado in Spain. His works have been displayed in various group shows nationally and internationally. In 2011 he had his first solo show in Fabio Tiboni gallery in Bologna, Italy, following with a second solo show in CAN gallery Athens in 2012 and a triple solo show at Christian Ehrentraut gallery in Berlin, Germany in 2014.

He currently lives and works in Berlin.

For more information please contact:

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Saturday: 11am - 4pm