

VENUS

MANHATTAN LOS ANGELES



Dan Colen | *Viscera*

On view: May 2 – June 27, 2015

Opening Reception: Saturday May 2, 12-4pm

Venus Over Los Angeles

601 South Anderson Street

Los Angeles, CA 90023

Venus Over Los Angeles is pleased to present ***Viscera***, an exhibition of three new bodies of work by **Dan Colen**. *Viscera* will open on **May 2, 2015** and marks the inauguration of the gallery's Los Angeles location.

Each element in *Viscera* elicits questions about the behavior of physical forms as they come into contact with metaphysical experience. An exhibition highlight, ***Canopics*** is a series of sculptures cast from the negative space formed by roadside guardrails mangled in automobile accidents. The series title refers to basins used in ancient Egyptian burial ceremonies to contain the viscera, or vital organs, of the dead. The solid silver casts do not look like vessels as such, but rather, according the artist, “resemble partial views of a leviathan or extraterrestrial appendage, sinking into the floor.” The *Canopics* are also formally akin to three-dimensional brushstrokes; each is a single mark brought to life in an explosive instant of violence (or, “le petite mort” preserved in precious metal).

As with Colen's *Miracle* series, ***Rainbow Paintings*** are based on stills from *Fantasia* (1940), which the artist sees as Disney's most abstract film, whose vignettes “address the many guises of creation itself.” Colen omits any animated characters or narrative cues from the frame, leaving only decontextualized backdrops. These are paintings both made of and about vibrating color, which rely only on the most basic attributes of paint: its hue and opaque materiality. The medium is applied with minimal dilution, pushing the surface of the canvas outward, layer by layer, toward the viewer. Colors simultaneously collide and smash apart, the narrow spaces between acting as sites of both resistance and cohesion.

Psychics (Interstellar Medium) is comprised of a series of recorded psychic readings, documented over a ten-month period beginning in the summer of 2014. “The sound piece is the aggregate audio track, in which the voice of the original recipient of the fortune has been removed,” states Colen. Left only with the fortunes themselves, the recordings imply each listener as “destined body” but also render the words generic; they are for everyone and no one, and thus contaminate the notion that we each have a unique purpose.

Born in 1979, Dan Colen has exhibited his work internationally and throughout the United States. Notable exhibitions include such institutions as: Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Royal Academy, London; PS1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York; National Museum of Art, Architecture and Design, Oslo; New Museum, New York; Museum of Modern Art, Oslo; FLAG Art Foundation, New York; 12th Biennale de Lyon; Inverleith House, Edinburgh; The Brant Foundation Art Study Center, Greenwich, CT; and The Walter De Maria Building, New York, NY. Colen lives and works in New York.

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