

IRVINE CONTEMPORARY

Robert Mellor: New Scenarios

May 26 - June 27

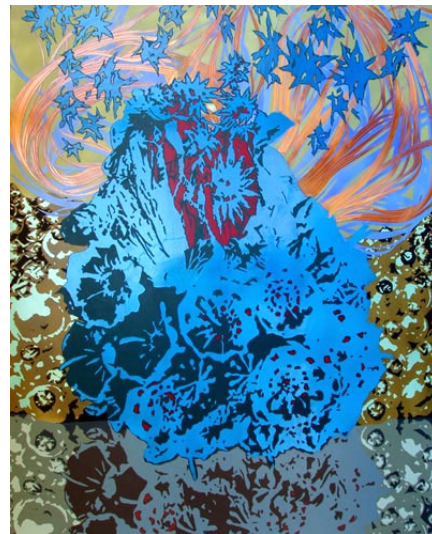
Opening Reception: Saturday, May 26, 6-8 PM

Irvine Contemporary is pleased to announce Robert Mellor's second solo exhibition, *New Scenarios*, which opens Saturday, May 26 and runs through June 27. Robert Mellor's new series of paintings boldly expands his innovative fusion of hard-edge organic composition techniques and strikingly original color harmonies.

The word "scenario" originally referred to the instructions on the back of painted theater scenery used as directions for actors entering a "scene." Robert Mellor's *New Scenarios* can be viewed as new propositions for visual enactment by the viewer, each work providing cues for engaging with the composition, layer by layer, edge by edge, line by line, color by color. While it can be said that any work of art comes alive as art by a viewer's active engagement, Mellor foregrounds this relationship by composing works of arresting beauty that compel viewers to re-enact the process of composition with the artist.



Robert Mellor, *Lithe*, 2007. Acrylic on canvas on panel. 48 x 40 in.



Robert Mellor, *Maverick*, 2007. Acrylic on canvas on panel. 82 X 66 in.

In this new series of paintings, Mellor often combines references abstracted from landscape and organic forms, cityscapes and architecture, Japanese woodblock prints, and cascading fabric from fashion design in totally new ways. His astonishing and original color harmonies command attention and continually reward viewers who take a contemplative pause and convert compositional space into time. Mellor is also the edge master, sculpting visual space with his hard-edge lines and interplay of forms, working at the edge of figuration and abstraction, building paintings from multiple layers that push the works into three dimensions as substantial objects in their own right. Mellor's *New Scenarios* are a set of enticements and seductions for viewers that make a bold, affirmative statement for new directions in painting today.

About the Artist

Robert Mellor has an MFA from Claremont University in California. He began his gallery exhibition career in Los Angeles, and has also exhibited in Los Angeles and in major art fairs in 2005-2007. Robert Mellor lives in works in Chatham, VA, near Washington, DC.

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Robert Mellor

EDUCATION

MFA Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, California (2002)
 BS Skidmore College Saratoga, New York

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2007 Robert Mellor, *New Scenarios*, Irvine Contemporary, Washington DC
 2006 Robert Mellor: *New Work*, Irvine Contemporary, Washington DC
 2002 Robert Mellor: *New Paintings*, Raid Projects, Los Angeles, CA
Paintings, Tall Wall Space. University of LaVerne. LaVerne, CA
Beyond Closure, East Gallery, Claremont Graduate University

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2006 *Above Ground*, Mary Goldman Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
Selections and Celebrations: Highlights from the Irvine Program, Irvine Contemporary,
 Washington DC
 2005 *Incognito*, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica
 2004 *Beauty*, Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA
Raid in Chicago, (Raid Projects, LA) 1/Quarterly Space, Chicago
The Pond Project, Chicago IL, Further Exhibition of *Raid in Chicago*
 2003 *Art Defined*, Fine Arts Gallery, Rio Hondo College, Whittier CA
Miniature, Los Angeles, Group Show, Raid Projects UK and LA, Raid
 Projects, the Brewery, Los Angeles
Miniature, Japan, Group Show, Kyubidou Gallery, Tokyo, Japan
 2002 Group Show. Huntington Beach Arts Center, Huntington Beach, CA

ART FAIR EXHIBITIONS

2006 AQUA Art Miami Beach, December 6-10, Miami FL (Irvine Contemporary)
 NADA Art Fair Miami, December 6-10 (Mary Goldman Gallery, LA)
 Art(212) Contemporary Art Fair, Sept. 2006, Downtown Armory, New York,
 (Irvine Contemporary)
 Scope Hamptons, July 14-16, Wainscott, New York (Mary Goldman
 Gallery, LA)
 VoltaShow02, June 14-18, Basel, Switzerland (Mary Goldman Gallery, LA)
 Irvine Contemporary in NYC, Armory Show Week, March 2006, 512 W. 29th
 St, Chelsea, New York

AWARDS & PUBLICATIONS

2006 The Trawick Prize, Bethesda Contemporary Art Awards, Bethesda, MD
 2002 *New American Paintings: West Coast Edition*. Open Studios Press.
 The Laura P. Fernandez Award, Claremont Graduate University
 2001 The Karl Benjamin Fellowship, Claremont Graduate University