



ESTEBAN SABAR GALLERY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Injuries” Explores Wreckage and Nature’s Patterns in July Exhibit at Oakland’s Esteban Sabar Gallery

Dates: July 5th to July 30th, 2007

Reception: July 5th, 6-9pm

OAKLAND, Calif. (June 22, 2007) — “Injury painter” Luke Riley torches synthetic materials to evoke destruction and life in an exhibit at Esteban Sabar Gallery from July 6th to July 30th, 2007 in the exhibit entitled “Injuries: Improvised Paintings by Luke Riley.” An artist’s reception takes place on Thursday, July 5th, from 6pm to 9pm.

Burning synthetic materials such as plastic bags and synthetic hair from wigs, artist Luke Riley taps into latent fascinations with physical wreckage and injury while evoking organic textures. Riley’s injurious, improvisational abstractions passively rely upon the transformative material to deliver eloquent compositions of shape and color.

By melting and burning these artistically uninitiated media with a torch, Riley’s work ironically suggests the organic. Riley scrapes and picks at the transformed torched surfaces of plastics to imply objects excavated from an ancient city or evidence in a fire investigation.

At the same time the fire distressed materials suggest net like organic tissues through Riley’s application of glue, waxes and gloss finishes to evoke internal fluids, sap, and bile, making his works in plastic meditations on the organic.

The resultant creations provide a seductive glimpse into wreckage of the physical, tapping into the same secret fascination that many of us have in viewing car accidents.

“I find that a canvas has life when the media has built itself to a point where the record of emotional intent is layered and thick,” says Riley. “I want to give my pieces organic life.”

Esteban Sabar Gallery is located at 480 23rd Street (*at Telegraph Avenue*), Oakland, California, 94612

Gallery hours are Monday, Thursday & Friday: 11am to 6pm; Saturday & Sunday: 12noon to 6pm; Tuesday and Wednesday: Closed.

For further information call 510/444-7411 or visit www.estebansabar.com.

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