

Otis Jones

14.10 - 19.11.2016

Opening 13.10.2016, 6pm

Annex14 is delighted to be showing a solo exhibition of works by the American artist Otis Jones, following the dual exhibition with Bret Slater three years ago.

"I'm against ideas," Otis Jones said recently in an interview¹. The driving force behind his work is desire, and his mode of working resembles a ritual process. The latter is evident in the many layers of paint that his artistic approach demands. Otis Jones applies paint, sands away the pigment again, applies more paint and continues working like this until the process leads to a painting that he considers valid.

Although he continues to plumb the depths of abstraction in his painting, and with it that of painting as a medium, his intention extends beyond this. The ritual quality he himself refers to enables him to proceed more intuitively than with purely conceptual targets. What is more, he finds it important to preserve the traces of his working process so that people can read the history of the painting: as its genealogy, as inscribed time, and as a means of decelerating perception.

The few formal elements he uses, dots and straight or circular lines, are often clearly distinguishable on the color planes. They are mainly arranged symmetrically or concentrically. With his vertical lines and pairs of dots, the artist seems to be citing anthropological constants which in their "imperfect" symmetry directly address the viewer's human quality. The small-format picturesquely condensed works invite viewers to tarry a while. Their vitality and direct presence imbue them with the property of attentive dialogue partners who demand to be heeded.

The directness that proceeds from Otis Jones' painting has to do with their quality as objects. His works not only have visual depth, they are also quite physical. This promotes the kind of meditative perception that was demanded by many American artists of the first generation of Abstract Painting.

Elisabeth Gerber

¹ https://www.google.ch/?gws_rd=ssl#q=otis+johnson+artist+interview