

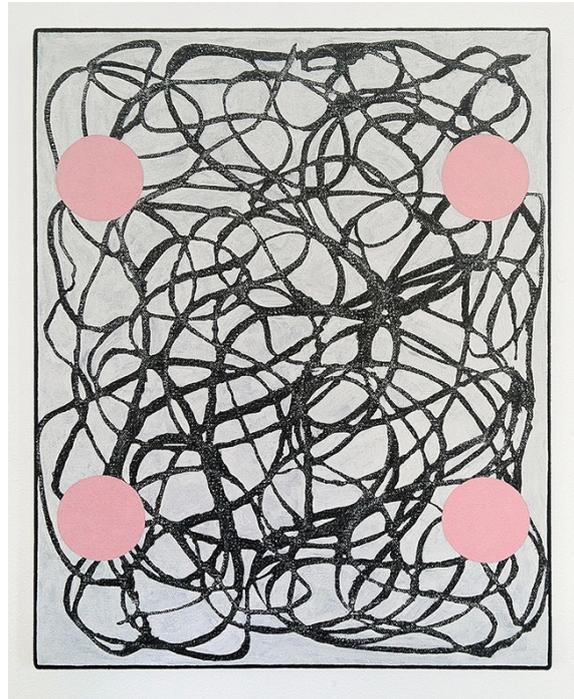
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Zak Prekop

May 15th - June 28th, 2014

Opening reception:
Saturday, May 17th. 6 – 9 pm

Gallery Hours:
Wed-Sat 12- 6 pm
or by appointment



Galería Agustina Ferreyra is pleased to announce Zak Prekop's first solo exhibition at the gallery. For the occasion, the artist continues to explore the complex visual systems that he has developed, through optical and material effects, by adding new elements and stages to his processes; mapping the canvases with patterns, grids and fields of paint. The paintings engage transparency and opacity - marks and forms are buried under filters of canvas, paint and grids, but come back to the surface transformed.

Transparency with Black Circles 1 & 2 are among the largest paintings the artist has made. They both show black and red marks that have been palette knifed on the back of the semitransparent canvas. They also detail white opaque marks that contain black and red renderings of the marks behind the canvases, causing an illusion of transparency, next to the actual transparency of the canvas. Painted black

circles offer a third, more linguistic type of transparency, black holes or voids. The atomized composition suggests that the paintings' contents are moving outwards, towards the works' edges. The large scale suggests an ongoing space, as does the doubling of the work into two, returning a spectator's vision from one canvas back to the other.

In several works, including *Two Grids (Dawn)*, an intricate set of rules consisting of layering multiple patterns into multiple fields of paint, create optical states of movement. In this case, the fields are thin, like drawn lines. A grid pattern has been painted within the lines of that drawing, from which a partial view of yet another drawn form is revealed, one that was painted through a stencil, but again, only within the thin field of paint. Each mark functions as a window into another, and it all hangs on a scaffolding of grids, that are broken by expanses of raw canvas.

Two small paintings in the exhibition, echo the circles in the vertical works. The larger of these, *Collage with Paper Bag (Mirror)* is painted onto a brown paper bag that is collaged onto canvas. Six black circles and a grid of white, oil pastel lines, divide the space like a game-board. There are bright colors painted into imperfections in the bag and a mirror of these markings in white. The pink circles in the smaller of these works, *Four*, sits on top of a scrambled drawing of grainy white lines, which have been painted around so they appear black.

Zak Prekop (b. 1979) received a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburg, in 2001 and a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2008. He has had recent solo exhibitions at Thomas Duncan Gallery, Los Angeles, Harris Lieberman, New York; Shane Campbell Gallery, Chicago and Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid. His work has recently been included in *Painter Painter* at The Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; *The Fifth Prague Biennale*, Prague, Czech Republic; and *Greater New York*, MoMA PS1, Queens, among others.

He is also a member of the band Hurray with fellow artists Josh Brand, Peter Mandradjieff & Richard Aldrich. Zak Prekop currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Image: Four, 2014 . © Zak Prekop