

Marlborough

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AARON PARAZETTE *NEW PAINTINGS* MARLBOROUGH CHELSEA November 8-December 8, 2007

New York, NY (October 4, 2007) - The Directors of Marlborough Gallery are pleased to announce that a dynamic exhibition of new paintings by Aaron Parazette will open at Marlborough Chelsea, 545 West 25th Street, New York, on November 8 and continue through December 8, 2007. This will be the Houston-based artist's second exhibition with Marlborough.

Parazette's recent work uses words taken from surfer lexicon to create high key color, hard-edged paintings of considerable complexity. Composing each work on the computer, Parazette selects a word which is then bent, stretched, flipped, elongated and jumbled, often rendering the original word indecipherable. After doing preliminary color work on the computer each composition is hand transferred to the full scale canvas and then painted through using a custom color pallet. The painting surfaces are flawless, and each letter form has a double "pinstripe" racing around it's edge, introducing yet another set of color relationships. The vivid color effects are complicated, vibrant, and exciting.

Marlborough's exhibition will feature nine paintings that range in size from 40 x 36 inches (101.6 x 91.4 cm) to 84 x 120 inches (213.4 x 304.8 cm), with titles such as *Full On*, *DaCat*, and *Bitchin*. While the surfer jargon loosely unites the work as a series, that common element has little to do with the paintings' content. Rather, Parazette can best be considered an abstract painter who employs text as a compositional structure upon which to "hang the paint." Of particular note is the dynamic push-pull of the foreground and background, as the multiple colors form syncopated and lively rhythms that nearly jump off the canvas.

Art historian and critic Frances Colpitt, in her essay for the catalogue, remarks that

The smooth surfaces and crisp lines of the paintings reveal a sensitive if not expressive hand, guided by experience and motivated by belief. Though cool, the paintings are not cold-hearted, industrial, or ironically distanced. Buoyed by the good humor of surf-slang, they nearly quiver with conviction.

Parazette was born in 1960 and grew up in coastal Southern California, where he developed his ongoing passion for surfing. After receiving an MFA in 1990 from Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA, he relocated to Houston. He is currently an Associate Professor of Painting at the University of Houston. Among the institutions in which Parazette has shown are the Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston; Elaine L. Jacob Gallery, Wayne State University, Detroit; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and the Weatherspoon Art Gallery, Greensboro, North Carolina. He was the recipient of a 2004 Artadia Fund for Art and Dialogue Award and received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Award in 1994.

Parazette's work can also be seen in the upcoming exhibition, *Glass Love: Contemporary Art and Surfing*, on view from November 17, 2007 - January 13, 2008 at the Santa Barbara Contemporary Arts Forum (CAF). This show recognizes the attention turned to surfing by a new generation of contemporary visual artists whose work references the sustained relationship of surfing and art to explore themes of individuality, meditation and Zen philosophy, and contemporary California culture.

A fully illustrated catalogue will be available at the time of the exhibition. An opening reception for the artist will be held at Marlborough Chelsea on November 8 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The gallery is located at 545 West 25th Street, New York, New York. Regular gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm.

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