

**FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

QUINT CONTEMPORARY ART

7547 GIRARD AVENUE, LA JOLLA, CA 92037

www.quintgallery.com T. 858.454.3409

info@quintgallery.com F. 858.454.3421

GALLERY HOURS: Tue - Sat 10:00 am - 5:30 pm and by appointment

**KELSEY BROOKES**

***Serotonin; Happiness and Spiritual States***

**November 10 – December 29, 2012**

Opening reception: Saturday, November 10, from 6 to 8 PM

Quint Contemporary Art (QCA) is very pleased to announce a solo exhibition of new work by San Diego based artist **Kelsey Brookes**. This is the second solo show of the artist's work at QCA. The exhibition will open with a public reception on Saturday, November 10th, from 6 to 8 PM. The artist will be in attendance along with a surprise musical guest performance.

Coming from a background in molecular biology, Brookes' newest series of work has taken his knowledge of scientific drawings and expanded them into candy colored and monochrome paintings that explore molecular structure. Presented here is a small portion of Brookes' scientific abstract pertaining to the artworks:

*Summary;* A survey study of the psychedelic visual landscape and an interpretation of the molecular world of neurotransmitters that generate and mediate both native consciousness and psychedelic experience.

*Methods;* These Neurotransmitters are visualized through the effects they have on the Human Central Nervous System (CNS). By bending the molecules own effects back onto themselves and rendering their structure by way of their effects on the human visual system. I provide a visual interpretation of both exogenous and endogenous molecular structural diagrams (or molecular line diagrams). Each was chosen for its particular effect on the serotonin pathway and it's mediating effect on psychedelic experience. I replaced each atom with a single point that reverberates out into the field interacting with the other atoms in the molecule and resulting in a landscape of vibratory color. In addition these works are accompanied by a number of paintings that reference the peripheral experiences these molecules have on the CNS, especially visual perception.

*"All together, it's a lot like taking a bunch of hallucinogenic drugs and looking into an electron microscope, with out all the anxiety and mess".*

– Kelsey Brookes

Brookes has had recent solo exhibitions in Malibu, Los Angeles, London and Berlin. His work is currently being featured as the cover art for the Red Hot Chili Peppers newest record release. The artist has also teamed up for illustration work with the likes of RVCA, VANS, and Insight 51. Brookes has been featured in numerous pop culture and design publications such as GQ, Modern Painters, ARTnews, Playboy, Paper, Juxtapoz, Beautiful Decay, Dazed and Confused, RE:UP, and HUCK. Most recently Brookes was featured in the publication SKULL STYLE: Skulls in Contemporary Art and Design as well as GO WEST!: Cutting-edge creative in the United States.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH KELSEY BROOKES**

*Q: We like your look. Very up-to-date yet 70's influenced. Who taught you to braid your hair?*

**A: My mom did, right after she taught me to tie my shoes.**

*Q: Your current exhibition relates to psychedelic drugs. What substances have you taken that might have inspired you to create these paintings?*

**A: Quite a few, but that does not inform my practice as much these days. It's a good jumping off point but it's not a very deep pool. Meditative contemplation and an intuitive process are a ocean of information by comparison.**

*Q: We hear you like to cook, what's your favorite dish to prepare?*

**A: I don't really have any favorite dishes. But I have developed a favorite method of cooking necessitated by our membership in a local Community Supported Agriculture program (Suzie's Farm). CSA's are a great way to get lots of very fresh very high quality produce. However the program does not lend its self well to recipe cooking. So what I do is I take whatever we happen to get that week and adapt the recipes I know to that produce. I start by breaking the recipe down into its constituent flavors and components (sweet, savory, salt as well as fat, protein, carbohydrates etc.) then I replace those flavors and components called for in the recipe with whatever fresh and local equivalent I have from the farm. Using the recipe as more of a flavor guide. The results are variable sometimes awesomely uneatable but more often than not it turns out surprisingly good. Plus its fun!**

*Q: So Papa Brookes a baby girl on the way... What life lessons would you like to teach your daughter first?*

**A: I am excited to learn from her actually. She will be my guru and the reason I will not get any sleep for the next 9 months!**

*Q: How did you choose the colors for your latest paintings? Are they phosphorescent? Did you know they would glow in the dark?*

**A: I photograph lots of flowers on a daily basis. I import those photographs into my computer and analyze them for there component colors. Then mix those to my desired consistency, hue and tone for painting. Once I have the paints all there in front of me I try and pick randomly before I apply them to the canvas. Randomness is way harder to generate than I had originally anticipated. Some of the florescent paints I use do fluores when placed in front of a UV light. This is a happy accident really the colors were chosen for there color in normal lighting conditions. Sure is a fun accident though.**

*Q: If you could be anywhere in the world where would you be?*

**A: Here. I mean really HERE. You know?**

Click below to visit Kelsey's blog, facebook page, and see what is currently going on in his studio by following his instagram.  
All are linked below.

**KELSEY BROOKES SOCIAL FOLLOWING LINKS**



Click below to visit Quint Contemporary Art's facebook page, instagram, website, tumblr, and hear about what's currently happening at the gallery by following our twitter page.  
All are linked below.

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