

MARC STRAUS

NEW YORK

OTIS JONES

On View: February 16 – April 1, 2018

Opening Reception: Friday, February 16, 2018, 6pm-8pm

MARC STRAUS is pleased to present our inaugural solo exhibition of Texas-based artist Otis Jones. The exhibition will present new works, with an opening reception on Friday February 16th from 6pm – 8pm and then remain on view until April 1st, 2018.

The work of Otis Jones is hard to pin down. They are sculptural paintings where the process comes centerstage in each work. They are intensely physical, yet restrained; formal abstractions, but embracing intuition and uncertainty. Jones' interests lie in the essentials: the relationship of shape, composition and color. Subtle nuances give his paintings marvelous character. *"I'm interested in objects, patina, wear, and age. Each piece takes on its own geology. I don't hide anything. It's a very real object"*, Jones once said.

Roughly-cut canvases are tacked onto irregularly-shaped handmade thick wood panels, where the layered plywood edges and staples are deliberately left exposed as compositional elements. Then, guided by intuition and experience, Jones continuously applies and sands away acrylic paint. This empirical ritual is repeated until an abraded texture of intense visual depth is achieved. Cratered, stained, and still luminous, the surface bears the marks of its maker – one can sense its genealogy, the inscribed time, and sincerity.

After closer examination complex layers of overpainted colors are found in seemingly monochromatic paintings. Finally, geometric shapes of lines, dots and squares, either excavated from previous layers or important enough to spare from erasure, are deployed. This bestows the work with soul. The proportions of these elements, the size of circles or length of dashes, are perfectly balanced. Nothing feels contrived, every element is essential as if it was organically grown there and the object could exist in no other way.

There are echoes of Post-Minimalism and even Asian Mono-ha, and color field, however in the end this Texas artist is original and timely. The painting process is reified in these personal and eccentric works.

Born in Galveston, Texas in 1946, Jones received his B.F.A from Kansas State University in 1969, continued graduate studies at Montana State University, and then earned his M.F.A. in 1972 from the University of Oklahoma. He was the 1982 recipient of a Visual Artists Fellowship Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and has taught at Texas



Otis Jones, *Red with One Red and Two White Circles, 2018*
Acrylic on Canvas on Wood
47.5 x 36 x 4 in (120.7 x 91.4 x 10 cm)
OJON.25.2018

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Christian University, the University of Texas at Austin and has served as an Associate Professor and Visiting Professor at University of Texas at Arlington. Jones' work can be found in many private and public collections including the Dallas Museum of Art. Jones is represented by MARC STRAUS in New York, US; Barry Whistler in Dallas, US; William Campbell Gallery, Fort Worth, US; Sunday-S Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark; and Annex14, Zurich, Switzerland.

For all inquiries, please contact **Ken Tan** at ken@marcstraus.com or **+1 (212)-510-7646**.

For more information, visit www.marcstraus.com



Otis Jones, *Tan with Two Black and Two Gray Circles*, 2018
Acrylic on Canvas on Wood
45 x 45.5 x 4 in (114.3 x 115.6 x 10 cm)
OJON.20.2018