

Press Release

T. Kelly Mason

THE LONGER I CHASE

THIS CLOUD THE MORE

I THINK I KNOW ABOUT IT

March 12 – April 19

In T. Kelly Mason's first solo exhibition with Éric Hussenot, *The Longer I Chase This Cloud The More I Think I Know About It* the artist presents a group of works--some previously exhibited in Berlin in 2010 and some fresh from the studio--that expand on his exploration of the language of "painting" in architecture and light. The artist has made a slot machine triptych titled "Making it Big", a closet titled "Lost at Sea", as well as 2 works derived from staging of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" concert tour. New photographic transparencies, include "The Longer I Chase This Cloud..." a work in which Mason pursued and photographed a cloud for several hours using Los Angeles' freeway system and "The Best This House Will Ever Be", the view from photographer Christopher Williams' apartment of a house under construction. Lastly, works from a long continuing series of Moneybags ask questions of the viewer and provide commentary on the exhibition.

Mason's lightboxes are close cousins to the cel-animation of pre-digital cartoons. The lightboxes consist of a complex layering of brush-drawing and hand-cut cine-gel (a colored film normally used in theatrical lighting). Using scale, reference, and sculptural presence, they depict constructed spaces and objects while working to de/re-construct the spaces where they reside and the objects placed in their proximity.

"Mason has built and worked directly with the capitalist narrative in a complex critique built over his" 26 "-year long career. Now more than ever, his works are of great import. Art after all, is a speculative venture, and so the dream of "making it big" is a fitting subject for the work of art. Mason's work has consistently addressed the things which contemporary artists working in the over-amped marketplace rarely acknowledge - the problems of the artist as a subject locked in a capitalist system; the recipient of its bounty and its abuse. The subject's internal stress is expressed in the language of painting displaced onto lightboxes. The fracture in that subject becomes the fracture of the work of art and causes a break in the world - a break which questions whether the "given" nature of system is a given at all."

Clara Zetkin, Berlin 2010

T. Kelly Mason was born in Hollywood California. He has a B.A. in music and in 1990 received an M.F.A. from Art Center College of Design. His recent solo exhibitions include *"The Open Society"* at Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles and *"Artist's Studios"*, Art Feature, Art Basel, He was also included in Prospect 2015 at MCASD, Centre du Monde EPCC Frac Bretagne and the 2006 Whitney Biennial. A recent monograph, *Places* is available through Cherry and Martin, Los Angeles.

Mason's work is held in a number of public collections including MoCA and The Hammer Museum in Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, The New York Public Library, the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York and the Centre Georges Pompidou, in Paris. The artist is on the faculty at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California and plays in the band *Los Tres Pericos*

More info available at tkellymason.com & losttrespericos.bandcamp.com