

PLEASE JOIN **CHRIS CRAN** FOR THE OPENING RECEPTION OF HIS EXHIBITION,
FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2009 FROM 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.



Exhibition continues
through to April 25, 2009

Charts, 1985, Oil on canvas
137.8 x 167.6 cm

Chris Cran, *Diversions* March 27 - April 25, 2009

In 1993, when Chris Cran presented his first "abstracts" - smallish optically active monochrome paintings at TrépanierBaer - critics, curators and collectors wondered what he was up to. It seemed impossible that the master parodist, who had taken his cues from as divergent a group of artists such as Caravaggio and Norman Rockwell to Warhol, Lichtenstein and Richter, was taking his audience into some version of high modernist abstraction. These early new paintings, however beautiful and optically charged and sublime, ultimately looked and felt like realistic "pictures". What was going on? The paintings received positive critical reviews and sold quickly. Cran, who at the time was loved by millions (now trillions), was forgiven for what was thought to be an interesting but momentary aberration, and everyone hoped that he'd get back to work on what he had become famous for: funny, ironic, and beautifully executed anecdotal paintings that celebrated the medium's long engagement with image.

In 2009, sixteen years after the controversial "abstracts" show at TrépanierBaer, Cran's investigation of abstract painting is his longest standing inquiry; the one he has persisted with and that has seen him work through several series, from the earliest monochromes and silver paintings to the clear paintings, the screen paintings, and now into his latest and perhaps his most refined series to date, we'll call as a working title, *Diversions*.

After over twenty-five years of R & D in the studio, if there is anything that can be said of Chris Cran the painter, it is that he has an unflinching belief in the possibilities of painting and the medium's ability to absorb history and new ideas, and to be elastic. Of his work he has often said, "My interest lies in the perceptual end of things and how the paintings articulate something back to the viewer about seeing."

On Friday, March 27, TrépanierBaer will present *Diversions*, a mini-survey exhibition of works by Chris Cran dating back to the mid-eighties that will include work from the earliest self portrait series, a "Warhol" portrait painting, his celebrated half tones, a surprise or two, and his latest, robust, optically engaging new abstract works.

Please join Chris Cran and TrépanierBaer Friday, March 27 to celebrate the opening reception of his exhibition *Diversions*.

For more information please open the attachment or contact the gallery at (403) 244-2066 or by email at info@tbg1.com.

■ ■ TrépanierBaer

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Tuesday - Saturday
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.