



## David Urban: Time Machines October 4 - November 3, 2007

Please join us for the opening of the exhibition on Thursday, October 4 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. The artist will be in attendance.

Untitled, 2007,  
oil and acrylic on canvas,  
152.4 x 122 cm.

TrépanierBaer is pleased to present *Time Machines*, an exhibition of new works by David Urban. In his seventh solo show with TrépanierBaer, Urban returns to his original project of pure abstract painting. Juxtaposing geometric form and pure colour with drawings of chance and improvisation, Urban's new works present a clear dialogue between the formal systems of abstract painting's past and human experience in the present.

Begun in 1996/97 and finished in 2007, the paintings in this body of work reveal both a structural and an actual dialectic of past and present. On the one hand, they utilize geometric and colour systems from the past to make contemporary paintings, and on the other hand, they reveal the actual time of production from their inception until their completion. Each painting is like its own time machine, revealing an image of the present that is produced by the past.

"In abstraction there is a particular pressure that is put upon the very basic elements of painting, which are line and colour and volume and shape," says Urban. Focusing on these formal elements as an underlying structure, Urban created a series of paintings in which he painted geometric rectangles in red, yellow, and blue along the outsides of the canvases. On the insides of the canvases, Urban carved into the pale impastoed surface with an oil stick. If the rectangles represent an austere classical vocabulary of the past, the drawings on the flesh-coloured insides of the canvases explore something "very human" in the present.

Urban describes his new paintings as "metaphors for being in the universe." He is interested in a kind of structural metaphor that happens in painting, where the structures inherent in the painting represent the natural cycles of the universe and the actual act of drawing or painting mirrors human activity in the world.

David Urban lives and works in Toronto. Born in 1966 in Toronto, Urban completed his undergraduate degrees at York University in 1989, graduating with a BA in English Literature and a BFA in Visual Arts (Painting/Drawing). He received his MA in English Literature and Creative Writing from the University of Windsor in 1991, and his MFA in Visual Arts (Painting/Drawing) from the University of Guelph in 1994.

Urban's critically acclaimed work has been featured in numerous solo and group shows across Canada, Europe and New York, including a solo exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario. His paintings can be found in many important public and private collections across Canada including the National Gallery of Canada, the Art Gallery of Ontario, Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, and the Vancouver Art Gallery to name a few.

The subject of numerous exhibition catalogues and publications, Urban's work was recently featured in Roald Nasgaard's *Abstract Painting in Canada, 2007* as well as a 2005 exhibition catalogue titled *David Urban: The Constructor*, with an introduction by David Moos and a monograph by James D. Campbell. Urban's paintings are frequently the subject of critical essays and reviews in some of Canada's most prestigious art journals and publications including *Canadian Art* and *Border Crossings*.

In 2002, Urban curated *Painters 15* for the Shanghai Museum of Art. The exhibition was the first survey of contemporary Canadian painting to take place in China.