

EDWARD CELLA ART & ARCHITECTURE
8033 W. Sunset Blvd., Box 3000
Los Angeles, CA 90046

www.edwardcella.com
323.525.0053
805.708.5912

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Eamon O'Kane
Richard Neutra Rancho Mirage, 2023
Acrylic on canvas
39 3/8 x 39 3/8 in

The exhibition is supported by a grant from



And the Consulate General of Ireland, Los Angeles

(LOS ANGELES) Edward Cella Gallery proudly presents an exhibition in two parts entitled *Biorealism* featuring the work of Eamon O'Kane which will span Los Angeles and is the largest presentation to date of the architecturally inspired paintings by this Irish born, Denmark based artist and educator. Fostering dialogues about Modern architecture's enduring appeal, domesticity, climate change, and the role of representation in painting, the exhibition is the artist's first solo exhibition with the gallery that has long explored the increasingly porous and intertwined boundaries of architecture, design, and art.

Calling attention to the geographical context of Southern California which has long inspired the O'Kane's ongoing series called, *Ideal Homes*, the exhibition presents new medium and large format paintings that depict a selection of the celebrated Mid-Century architecture of Los Angeles and Palm Springs set in the dynamically changing natural and manufactured landscapes of the region. The exhibition will include paintings that depict homes and buildings by A. Quincy Jones, William Krisel, and Richard Neutra among others.

O'Kane depicts the enduring appeal of these much-loved architectural icons that were originally planned and built to foster harmonic relationships between design, domesticity, shelter, and nature with the aim of nurturing and

EAMON O'KANE *Biorealism*

An Exhibition in Two Parts

Part I
Edward Cella Art+Architecture @
Himalaya Club
1109 N. La Brea Ave.
Inglewood, CA 90302

Vernissage:
Saturday, September 16, 2023 | Noon to 6 PM

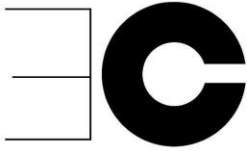
Illustrated Lecture by the Artist and Book Signing
Saturday, October 14 | Noon

On View Saturday, September 16 – October 28, 2023
Thursday through Saturday | 11 am to 5 pm.
And by appointment

Part II

ECAA @ Thomas Lavin Showroom
8687 Melrose Ave, Suite B310
West Hollywood, CA 90069

On View Monday, September 18 – November 3
Monday through Friday | 10 am to 5 pm.



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educating the inhabitants of a modern world. In the artist's words, "I see a role for art to probe architecture, design and planning, to re-evaluate the past, and to begin to construct and re-imagine a possible future."

The title of the exhibition itself is a direct reference to philosophy of Modernist architect Richard Neutra who coined the term "biorealism" in his groundbreaking treatise, *Survival By Design* (1954) and was intended to inscribe "the inherent and inseparable relationship between man and nature." Neutra joined the Greek word *bios*, meaning life, and *realism* as he believed that architecture took its' cue from how humans behave and evolve, and his imperative that art and architecture must address the senses. O'Kane sees this concept as an informative way of describing his painting agenda and artwork in general. At once fanciful, atmospheric, and theoretical, the artist looks to reveal an emotional character in his paintings that emerges from the buildings themselves and their settings.

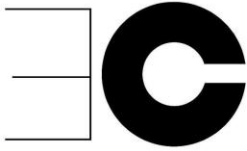
Frequently selecting source materials for his ongoing series paintings from his research of the architectural magazines of the post-war era which feature photographs by Julius Shulman and others, O'Kane was inspired to make a pilgrimage to Southern California last year to visit many of these sites in person. In contrast to the historical photographs that conjured an idealized life of architectural flawlessness, the artist was confronted with the shifts that both time and climate have brought about and began to consider more purposefully our desires and fears in the creation of his newest visceral and evocative paintings. Reimagining the paradisaical perfection of these structures, O'Kane uses abstract flat planes of bright saturated colors and to dislocate the structures from their surrounding landscape which are sometimes inundated by flood and sometimes engulfed in the acrid smoke of uncontrolled wildland fire, and other current day environmental effects.

For O'Kane, his experience called to mind a passage written by Richard Neutra more than seventy-five years ago, "The universe of which we are a part is a dynamic continuum. It extends from the most distant galactic systems into our atmosphere, biosphere, and terrestrial mantle, wafting even deeper into an energetic array of molecular and subatomic events that configure all matter, motion, and mind. Our skin is a membrane, not a barricade.... The most remote contours of the cosmos are not just 'out there somewhere' but causally interlaced with the nearest and deepest folds of our interior landscape."

Biorealism sets the stage as a means for experiencing Eamon O'Kane's ongoing development of his internationally exhibited practice in a new and site-specific way. The exhibition will be presented in two concurrent parts with a portion of the exhibition presented in the neutral "white box" space of the Edward Cella Gallery in Inglewood and the other at the Thomas Lavin Showroom at the Pacific Design Center which will juxtapose the painting within the context of collections of contemporary design and furnishings on view that evoke the present interiors of the homes depicted in the paintings themselves. In this way, those who choose to view the paintings in both configurations are invited to consider the works in two states: from outside looking in and from the perspective of the individuals who live in domestic interiors of the homes today. Additionally, the two-part nature of the exhibition extends and expands the multi-year collaboration between Edward Cella Gallery and the Thomas Lavin Showroom in bringing together the best of art and design and fostering an informed dialogue between these disciplines.

The artist's exhibitions in Los Angeles will follow the closing of his most recent exhibitions *The Nature of Things* at Galerie Andres Thalmann in Paris, France; *Forest* at Norske Grafikere Galleri, Oslo, Norway and *Fluid Spaces* at Høyersten Contemporary, Bergen, Norway and will run concurrently with *Anarchive* at the Source Arts Center, Thurles, Ireland and an exhibition co-curated by the artist at the Worth Ryder Gallery at U.C. Berkeley entitled *Transformations and Disruptions: The Challenges and Opportunities of AI for Human Creativity*. Each of these projects offer insights into the interdisciplinary and multifaceted practice of the artist that span paintings, drawing, sculpture, printmaking, and photography along with installation and video.

Eamon O'Kane: Biorealism is presented in two locations. Part 1 opens on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from Noon to 6 PM at Edward Cella Art+Architecture @ Himalaya Club located at 1109 N. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, CA 90302. This



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exhibition will be open through October 28, 2023, and be available for viewing Thursday through Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm and by appointment at other times. The artist will present a illustrated lecture about his work on Saturday, October 14 at Noon and will sign copies of his newest book, *Oneiric Nature*, which will be available for purchase.

The second part of the exhibition will take place at Thomas Lavin Showroom located in the Pacific Design Center at 8687 Melrose Ave, Suite B310, West Hollywood, CA 90069. The exhibition will be on view from Monday, September 18 through November 3, 2023, and be open to the public Monday through Friday from 10 am to 5 pm.

ABOUT EAMON O’KANE

Eamon O’Kane (born 1974, Belfast, Northern Ireland) explores the ideological tropes and visual forms of modernist architecture in his paintings and immersive sculptural installations. He received his B.A. in the History of Art and Fine Art at the National College of Art and Design in Dublin, Ireland in 1996 and went on to earn his M.F.A. at the University of Ulster, Belfast in 1998 and later an additional M.F.A. in Design Technology at Parsons School of Design, New York in 2001. O’Kane has exhibited internationally, and recent solo exhibitions include Galerie Andres Thalmann, Paris, France (2023); The Model Arts Centre, Sligo, Ireland (2022); Galerie DGV, Svendborg, Denmark (2022); Galerie Andres Thalmann, Zurich, Switzerland (2020); Norwegian Sculpture Society, Oslo, Norway (2020), Josef Filipp Galerie, Leipzig, Germany (2019); Crawford Municipal Gallery, Cork, Ireland (2019); Funen Art Museum, Odense, Denmark (2019); Rochester Art Center, MN, USA (2018), and Gregory Lind Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA (2016). He is preparing for solo exhibitions with Galleri Christoffer Egelund, Copenhagen, Denmark (2023) and Ballina Arts Centre, Ireland (2024). His work is held in the public collections of Burda Museum, Baden Baden, Germany; Lentos Art Museum, Linz, Austria; Museum of Fine Arts, Brest, France; META/Facebook, Dublin and The Arts Council Collection, Ireland. Recently he has been awarded Norwegian Arts Council Grant (2020) and previously a Fulbright Award, Pollock Krasner Foundation Award, EV+A Biennial Award and Taylor Art Award. His monographs include *Oneiric Nature* (University of Bergen, 2022), *And Time Begins Again* (University of Bergen, 2019), *Hybrids* (Academy of Art and Design, Norway, 2013); and *Case Histories* (ArtSway and Rugby Art Museum, UK, 2009). He currently lives and works in Odense, Denmark and is Professor of Painting at The Art Academy, University of Bergen, Norway.

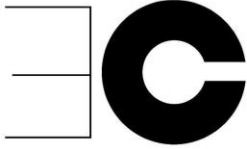
ABOUT HIMALAYA CLUB

Located in Inglewood, California and presented in the studio of artist Lucas Reiner, *Himalaya Club* is an ongoing collaborative project providing space for local and out of town artists to introduce their work to audiences in Southern California through exhibitions. *Himalaya Club* has hosted artists from Rome, London, Berlin, Vienna, Warsaw, Lviv, and Rapid City, South Dakota. Works by Johannes Spalt, Agata Bogacka, Fabian Cereijido, Michael Dressel, Thomas Kratz, Francesco Siqueiros, and Marty Two Bulls, among others, have been shown.

ABOUT THE THOMAS LAVIN SHOWROOM

Thomas Lavin is a leader in bringing an international range of exclusive high-end home furnishings, fabrics, lighting, and accessories to Los Angeles. Founded in the year 2000 by Los Angeles Native Thomas Lavin. Over the years the Pacific Design Center showroom has grown to 19,000 square feet—including an additional 4,000 sq ft added in early 2019—which encompasses a stand-alone showroom for French heritage brand Liaigre. To better serve his clientele in Orange County, San Diego and the dessert communities, Lavin opened a showroom at the Laguna Design Center in 2014.

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Edward Cella Art & Architecture is committed to supporting significant established, mid-career, and emerging artists, architects, and designers. Nurturing this hybridity, the gallery uniquely exhibits photography, painting, sculpture, architectural drawings, models, and design objects with an emphasis on the intersection of these disciplines. Edward Cella founded Edward Cella Art & Architecture in 2006, building on his background as an architectural historian with a decade of experience in art advisory and collection management and a passion for collecting architectural drawings and ephemera, as well as contemporary art. The gallery sustains a curatorial emphasis on discourses surrounding issues of cultural and conceptual significance and has represented historical and under-recognized estates and collections.

For Further Information, please contact:

Edward Cella - director@edwardcella.com - 323.525.0053

For Thomas Lavin press inquiries:

K+J Agency

Karen Peterson - karen@kj-agency.com - 917.553.7638

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