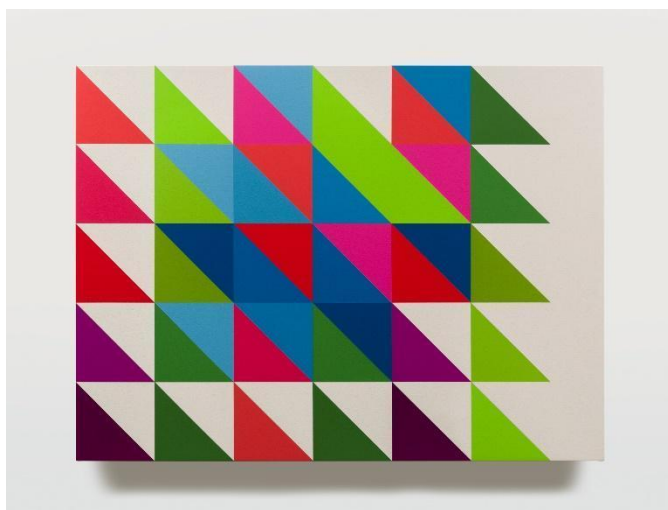


EDWARD CELLA ART & ARCHITECTURE
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Andrew Huffman
Ice Plant Divisadero, 2021
Acrylic on canvas over panel
30 x 40 inches

ANDREW HUFFMAN **PLACES AND SPACES**

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

Vernissage:

Saturday, November 11, 2023 | Noon to 5 PM

Talk with the Artist at 3 PM

Held in conjunction with Inglewood Open Studios
November 11 and 12 | Noon to 5 PM

On View

Saturday, November 11 through December 22, 2023

Thursday through Saturday | 11 am to 5 pm.

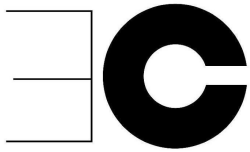
And by appointment

(LOS ANGELES) Edward Cella Gallery is pleased to present the abstract paintings of Andrew Huffman in an exhibition entitled *Places and Spaces*. The title of the exhibition calls attention to the artist's pursuit of a new direction in Hard Edge painting by seeking to imbue a *genius loci* into the formal geometric language of the movement. *Places and Spaces* features a selection of new and recent medium format paintings that seek to encapsulate the sensibilities of specific landscapes that the artist has explored, transforming states of being and feeling into cathartic optical objects. Building on the language of precisely positioned sharp edged color and predetermined sets of shapes arranged with an economy of means, Huffman pursues creating dynamic pattern systems, where conditions of instability foster new adaptations.

Employing a pallet of high-key saturated colors in conjunction with cool greys and whites, Huffman's paintings vibrate optically and spatially drawing equally from Supergraphics, Hard Edge and Optical art traditions of the West Coast. His compositions probe the visceral possibilities of positive and negative spaces on the surface of the canvas starting with graphite on the raw canvas and then developed in certain areas with subsequent layers of clear gesso set apart from other areas saturated with rich layers of color. He states, "I am fascinated with the ways pattern coupled with color can elicit directional movement and evoke visual harmonies and connections." He seeks to dynamically engage the eye and mind of the viewer with the negative spaces being equally important and acting like windows into the development of the trajectory of the works. They allude to the enigmatic spaces and places of the mind and memory, and are in his words, "a call and response similar to a musician willing to listen and later accompany through improvisation."

Huffman's methodical paintings have a distinct sculptural presence. Not only are the painting's surface plane projected forward off the wall surface creating an offset shadow along the bottom and sides, but the artist also continues and expands his painting's compositions onto the deep edges of his panels. Challenging the objectives of formal purity and flatness inherent in historical Hard-Edge painting, Huffman creates dimensional paintings that engage space and resonate with the complex and hybrid nature of contemporary culture. Huffman states, "I want my paintings to reference painting, drawing, sculpture, and installation simultaneously through their physical form and visual depictions."

Investigating patterns and color metaphorically, Huffman draws inspiration from locations he travels to explore. In selecting the shapes of geometric forms and the exact chroma of the colors for his compositions, he seeks to evoke elements in nature and the imagination, and in turn create physical representations of the enigmatic psychological states of seeing, feeling, and thinking. The titles of his paintings often refer to specific places or the flora found in them and posit with the viewer that the works are landscapes of a sort. Both literal, symbolic, highly abstracted, and deeply personal, his works are in a way like distillations or like puzzles that challenge the viewer to engage in them. As Huffman states, "through the



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process of painting, I'm constantly juggling an intuitive balance of intricate additive information orchestrated amongst functioning negative space."

Representing the first solo exhibition of the artist's work with the gallery, *Spaces and Places* presents a selection of the artist's work created over the past four years. The exhibition is accompanied by a concurrent group exhibition entitled *Sweets & Treats* that features a compendium of works drawn from the gallery's roster of artists, its Inglewood neighborhood and beyond. Both exhibitions will debut as part of the return of Inglewood Open Studios (IOS) which highlights the city's artists and creatives featuring self-guided tours of artist studios, art galleries, arts organizations and other creative spaces and takes place on both Saturday, November 11 and Sunday, November 12 from 12 to 5 PM. The community wide nonprofit festival helps support the arts and culture of the community it serves and the IOS art walk is free to the public. For more information about the event, please visit inglewoodopenstudios.org.

Andrew Huffman: Places and Spaces and *Sweets & Treats* will run from November 11 through December 22 and be open to the public each week Thursday through Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM and other days and times by appointment. The exhibition is located at the Edward Cella Gallery at 1109 N. La Brea Ave, Inglewood, California 90302. The Vernissage will take place on Saturday, November 11 from Noon to 6 PM and will feature a reception for artists and feature introductory remarks beginning at 3 PM.

ABOUT ANDREW HUFFMAN

Huffman was born in Newton, Kansas in 1986 and received his BFA in painting and printmaking in 2008 from the Columbus College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio. In 2012, he earned an MFA in painting with honors from the University of Kansas. He has taught courses in drawing and painting at the University of Kansas, KS; the Metropolitan State University, CO; and the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design, CO. He currently lives and works in Denver, Colorado.

The Pardon Collection acquired Huffman's work recently and will be featured in a group exhibition drawn from the collection entitled *Subtle Shifts*, at The Vault in Denver, CO that will run concurrently with *Spaces and Places*. He is represented by the David Richard Gallery in New York City and is preparing for his third solo exhibition with the gallery in early 2024. Huffman presented a site-specific interactive multi-media installation entitled *Domino Projection* at the Denver Art Museum in 2020, and previously has made temporary site-specific installations at the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art (2019), the Gallery of the U. of Colorado, Colorado Spring (2019) and the Museum of Contemporary Art Denver (2018). In 2020, Huffman completed two permanent public art installations for Continuum Partners entitled, *Modulated 32 (#1 & #2)* in downtown Denver. The artist was recently awarded a two-year artist in residency at RedLine Contemporary Art Center in Denver (2016-2018) and with the Facebook Artists in Residency Program in Denver (2018) during which he created a permanent mural for their offices. His work has been exhibited at the Neurotitan Gallery in Berlin, Germany and in a public mural in the Old Dali City in Yunnan, China.

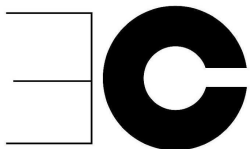
ABOUT HIMALAYA CLUB

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 Cerejido, Michael Dressel, Thomas Kratz, Francesco Siqueiros, and Marty Two Bulls, among others, have been shown.

ABOUT EDWARD CELLA ART & ARCHITECTURE

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:



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