

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

edward lightner

fluffy

September 11 – October 16, 2004

Reception for the artist: Saturday, September 11, 6-9pm



Los Angeles, CA. – L2Kontemporary (Chinatown) presents new series of paintings by Edward Lightner. The show runs from September 11 through October 16, 2004, Reception: Saturday, September 11, 6-9 PM.

Fluffy is a collection of recent work by Southern California based artist, Edward Lightner. These geometrical abstract paintings are wall sculptures involving a mélange of media from foam core, acrylic, masonite, graphic type and pages from Biblical scripture. Lightner references several different issues including contradiction, curiosity and fear in regard to man and his destiny.

Lightner supported himself through art school working for a topographical firm. One cannot help but notice a directional sense in these map-like, sexually charged pieces. By utilizing straight horizontal lines, biomorphic shapes and American alphabet type, Lightner creates a dialogue between the artist and viewer that suggests a political dinner conversation with heavy undertones of sex and sexual freedom. Take for instance **Now, Always, Forever**, we see what appears to be a nuclear atomic explosion created by the layering of up to six various cut out shapes, painted in shades of Pepto Bismal pink, arranged in a relief manner over a series of controlled horizontal stripes of greens and oranges. Colors one can almost taste saturate the senses. The piece draws the viewer in to reveal that, in fact, this explosion is not a nuclear explosion but rather the hairless buttocks of a man bent over with testicals and penis hanging off the painting's bottom portion. A sexual explosion takes center stage as a metaphor for hope within contrived spaces. **Now, Always, Forever**, is contrastingly tasteful, refreshing and insightful. Desire and consequence are products of the human life. Lightner's use of subtlety when dealing with related issues such as fragility, AIDS in the community and sexual self-awareness is both intelligent and artful.

Reminiscent of the work of Ruscha and Rosenquist, **Fluffy** is a collection of pieces that is both preconceived and technically well executed. Lightner has a wonderful knack for playing with the psychological notion of time and memory. In other pieces such as **A Beautiful Thing Taking Me Away** and **Learn to Expect Nothing**, he again links the male anatomy, made up of ambiguous shapes. In the background, controlled razor sharp stripes allow these pieces to project commentaries on personal experience. These are paintings that read more as maps to the heart than paths to destruction. Lust, gluttony, and doubt are released in this show and the result is like cotton candy-- fluffy, sweet and undoubtedly addictive.

Edward Lightner received his Master of Arts degree from California State University, Northridge and Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University, Bakersfield. He has been exhibiting his work since 1984 and has been noted in several publications including "Pandemic Facing AIDS", New York: Umbrage Editions.

This is Lightner's eighth solo exhibition.

David Early