

AWAKE IN THE GOLDEN STATE

JAMES GOBEL | SANDY RODRIGUEZ

A PUBLICATION OF SONCE ALEXANDER GALLERY

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SONCE
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GALLERY

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JUNE 6 - JULY 25, 2015

Sonce Alexander Gallery is proud to present *Awake in the Golden State*, featuring the works of **James Gobel** and **Sandy Rodriguez**.

Composed in response to the communities and landscapes of California, James Gobel and Sandy Rodriguez's work interlinks their personal reflections on urbanity and culture.

James Gobel cites his social interactions in the San Francisco LGBT community as impetus for his practice. Checkered patterns, raw scratches and abstract forms generate bold robust lines, maneuvering and layering symbols throughout his canvases. Gobel's frenetic gestural marking 'existentially recalls abstract expressionism', while the conceptual inscription of text forms a 'highly personal, idiosyncratic moral code.' Gobel responds to the intricacies of an intimate world where bathroom graffiti is strewn with elegant invitations for a double-tease, revealing and concealing an underlying sensuality.

Sandy Rodriguez depicts graceful transitions and subtle moments in the city of Los Angeles. The transfiguration of overlooked environments unites with delicate strokes and ethereal street corners. Redevelopment manifests with a fragility disclosing otherwise disregarded landscapes and architecture - communities in order and disorder. Rodriguez delivers a personal perspective with fervent simplicity, exposing fractured viewpoints through the subjectivity of fire, fog, tear gas, and persistence: an artist's vision of a beloved city and its physical as well as cultural regeneration.

James Gobel received his BFA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (1996) and his MFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara (1999). Solo exhibitions include: UCLA Hammer Museum (2000); Kravets/Wehby Gallery, New York (1999, 2001, 2002, 2005); Marx & Zavattero, San Francisco (2008 & 2010) and Steve Turner Contemporary, Los Angeles (2008 & 2012). Exhibitions include: the travelling museum exhibition Las Vegas Diaspora: The Emergence of Contemporary Art from the Neon Homeland curated by Dave Hickey, Las Vegas Art Museum (2007); Surface Value, Des Moines Art Center (2011); Leslie Lohman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art (2014), San Francisco. Gobel lives and works in San Francisco, California.

Sandy Rodriguez is an artist and museum educator who received her BFA from California Institute of Arts (1997). She has shown at institutions such as Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, Snite Museum of Art; University of Notre Dame - Notre Dame; Walter Maciel Gallery and Avenue 50 Studios. She was recently nominated for the 2015 Rema Hort Mann Foundation emerging artist award. Rodriguez is the 2014-2015 Artist in Residence with Art + Practice (residence organized by the Hammer Museum, founded by Mark Bradford, Eileen Harris Norton and Allan DiCastro) and education specialist for teacher audiences for the J. Paul Getty Museum. In Summer 2015 her work will be showcased at the Vincent Price Art Museum and Art + Practice foundation for her Artist in Residence. Rodriguez lives and works in Los Angeles, California.

James Gobel

Although it may seem that Gobel's work has moved in a contradictory trajectory, from more "difficult" conceptual work to more "traditional" paintings, this should alert us to the more difficult ideas that lurk in these seemingly traditional objects. Any artist struggles to find that place where idea and method finally work in concert. In his most recent works, Gobel has found that place.

These objects take a casual, conventional moment (the snapshot) and make it the occasion for an extraordinary act of devotion. The materials and careful crafting of these objects, the quiet planning, the piecing together of fabric, evoke traditionally feminine pursuits such as quilting, yet their imagery would most readily be called masculine.

Gobel's works are certainly not the "magic windows" that we traditionally think of representational paintings as being. They do everything to insist on the impurity of their origin, the visual impenetrability of their surfaces.

— Nayland Blake, Hammer Projects, 2000

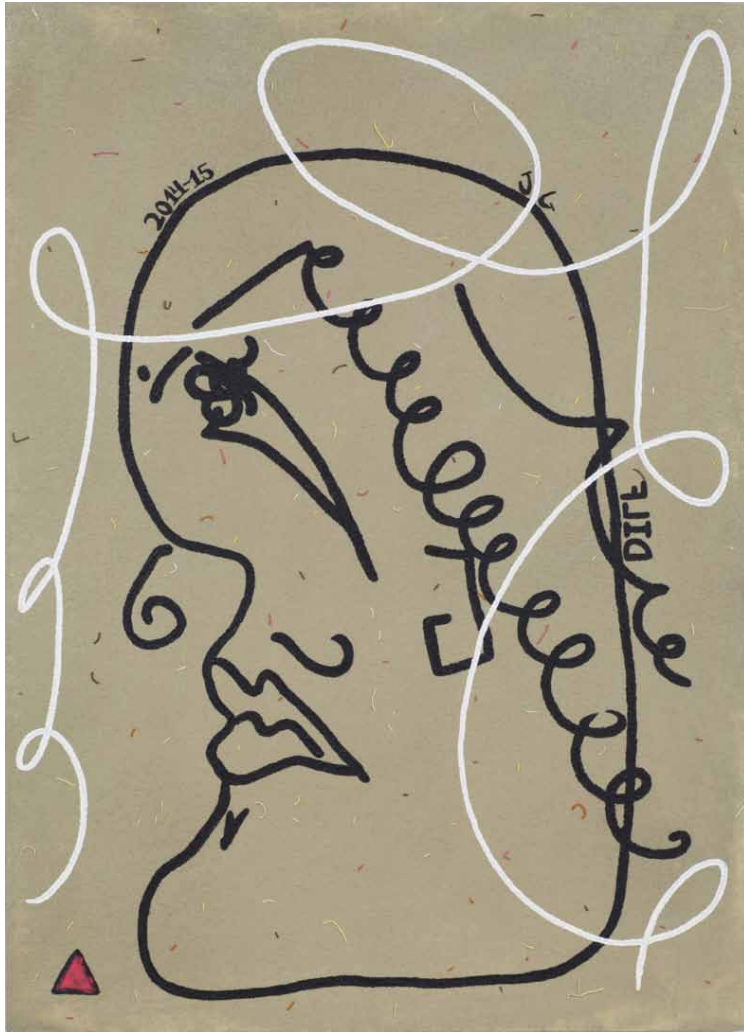


Golden Shower Smile

2015

Felt, Yarn, Acrylic on Canvas

96 x 65.5 inches



FLID
2015
Felt, Yarn, Acrylic, Embroidery Thread on Canvas
44 x 32 inches



Red Stare 2

2015

Felt, Acrylic on Canvas

50 x 48 inches



Red Stare

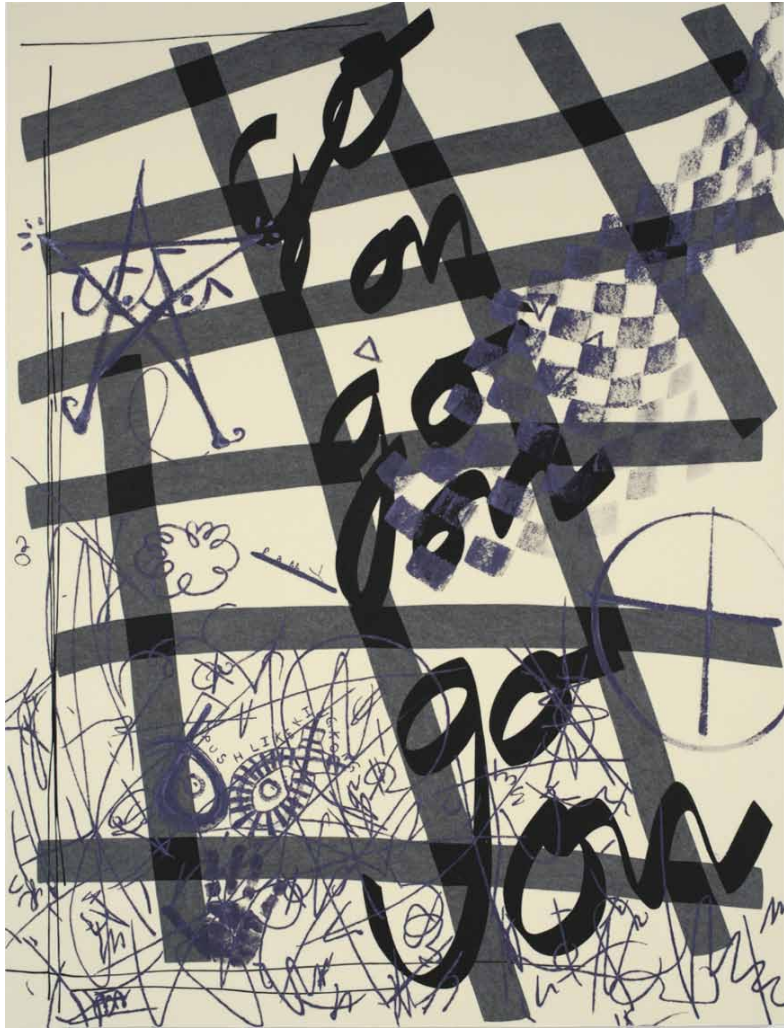
2014

Felt, Acrylic on Canvas

64 x 52 inches



Castro
2015
Felt, Acrylic on Canvas
52 x 52 inches



Goons

2014

Felt, Yarn, Acrylic on Canvas

64 x 48 inches



Freedom is Never Given to Anyone (Green Stare)

2015

Felt, Acrylic on Canvas

38 x 28 inches



Notes to Rethink

2014

Felt, Acrylic on Canvas

44 x 40 inches



Lou
2015
Felt, Acrylic on Canvas
30 x 24 inches

Sandy Rodriguez

“You hope that you include just a little bit of information, that it’ll jog recent memory and conversations” ... “There’s an idea that there’s a lone artistic creator, toiling away by themselves in a space, and it’s not in a vacuum. That process is about being a part of a larger community, a larger dialogue, a larger history.” Rodriguez says.

— Listen!: Interview with Adolfo Guzman- Lopez on KPCC, 2015

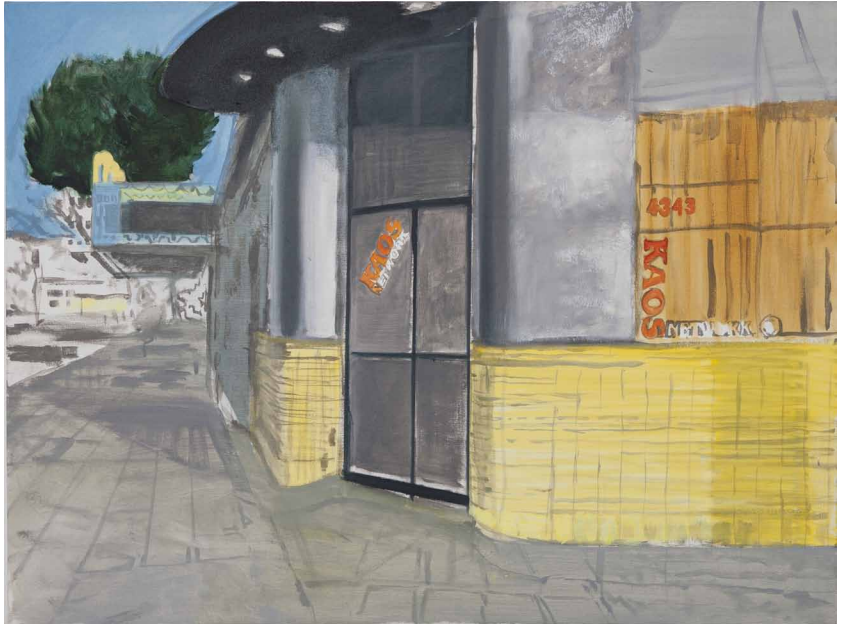


West 43rd Street

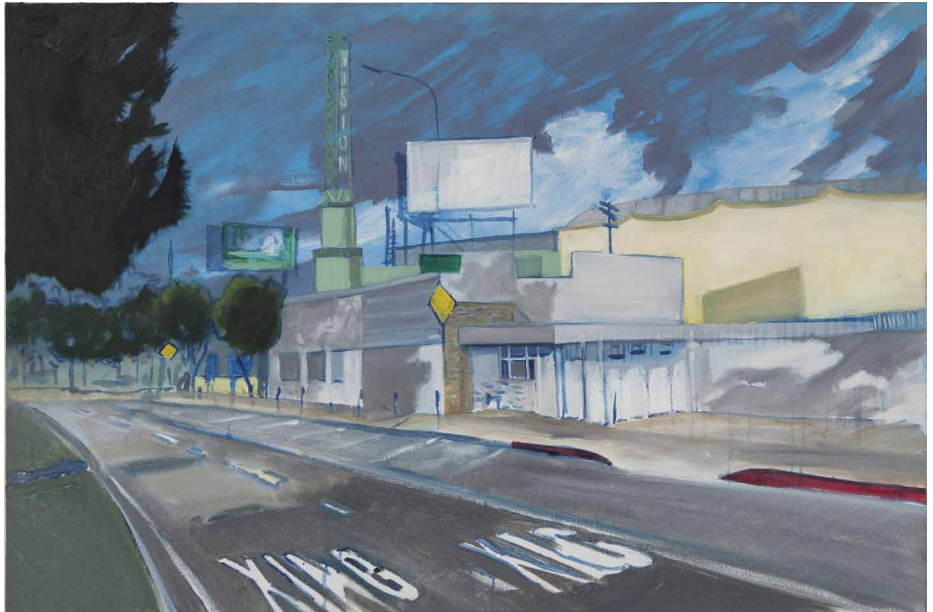
2014

Oil on Canvas

36 x 48 inches



Kaos Network
2014
Oil on Canvas
36 x 48 inches



Art + Practice
2014
Oil on Canvas
24 x 36 inches



West 41st Street

2014 - 15

Oil on Canvas

36 x 48 inches



Martin Luther King and Degnan No.3

2015

Oil on Canvas

24 x 36 inches



Rosslyn Million Dollar Fire Proof Hotel

2014

Oil on Canvas

24 x 36 inches



Fog No 7
2013
Oil on Canvas
9 x 12 inches



Fog No 6
2013
Oil on Canvas
11 x 17 inches

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With thanks: Deputy Director: Ann Harezlak & Sonce Alexander Gallery Team.

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