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Laura Rathe Fine Art
2707 Colquitt St.
Houston, TX 77098

ROI JAMES

A Renewal of Expression

Laura Rathe Fine Art Presents New Works by Notable Contemporary Artist

(Houston, TX, January 2016) – Acclaimed Houston gallery, Laura Rathe Fine Art will host an exhibition of new works by contemporary painter, Roi James, in a solo show, *A Renewal of Expression*, with an opening reception on Saturday, February 27th, 2016 from 6-9pm at 2707 Colquitt Street. In the last year, James has suffered through and recovered from cancer. In the face of his health concerns, James continued to explore complex abstractions utilizing a unique approach to the application of paint and harnessed the meditative energy embedded in the spirit of his paintings throughout his recovery. The large-scale oil paintings emanate a reflective state of being, and the fluidity of the medium suggests deep expression and movement. The exhibition will be on view through April 2, 2016.

"In my paintings I explore how uncertainty can lead to meaning and understanding, how harmony can be experienced even within tension and chaos, and how the recognizable can rise out of purely abstract form. [The works are] meant to encourage contemplation and meditation."

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Roi James's paintings of conceptual constructions, meditative abstracts, transcendent landscapes, and mystical figure portraits all acknowledge him to be a painter who is continually exploring and refining his technique. The diversity of his styles and the fluency in which he paints reveal that innate ability often described as a gift, but which is truly the result of a deep conviction and dedication towards his creative expression.

Having emerged from a classical background, James began his career gaining inspiration from the great romantic landscape painters, such as J.M.W Turner, Claude Lorrain, Caspar David Friedrich, and Thomas Moran. As James's body of work evolved, he started to explore newer traditions in Abstract Expressionism, Op Art and Minimalism, drawing inspiration from a different group of artists like Klee, Miro, Rothko, Pollock, Riley and Richter. With such a range of influences, his work engages the viewer in dialectic dialogues creating links between the traditional and the modern, formalism and contemporaneity, and representation versus abstraction.

In his newer series, James experiments and uses unorthodox methods of applying and moving oil paint to create archetypal forms that infuse a sense of both familiarity and mysteriousness. The compositions are formally beautiful and dramatic, and they beg the questions: What are they? How were they made? The mind wants to identify them so that they can be placed into the world of the known. Yet the images defy a complete recognition leaving the viewer to rest in the uncertainty and mysteriousness of what it is that they are observing. It's that mystery that gives the work its strength and power. These paintings strike a delicate balance between control and freedom, reality and possibility – they are icons of this sacred space.

James's work has been placed in numerous private and corporate collections in the US and abroad. He currently works and resides in Austin, Texas.

ABOUT LAURA RATHE FINE ART

With over 25 years of experience in the art industry, gallery owner, Laura Rathe, started her career working as a private art dealer. She established Laura Rathe Fine Art in 1998 in Houston, Texas, located in Upper Kirby at 2707 Colquitt Street on Gallery Row. In February 2013, the gallery expanded, opening a second location in Dallas on Dragon Street, the city's premiere arts district destination. In September 2015, LRFA opened a third location in the heart of Uptown Houston, located at 1700 Post Oak Blvd in 1 BLVD Place.

Laura Rathe Fine Art is known for representing established, mid-career contemporary artists, many of whom have been acquired into world-renowned private, corporate and museum collections. Various important public collections include BBVA Compass, HKS Architects Headquarters, CBRE, Wells Fargo, W Hotels, UTSW Hospital and Halliburton.

For additional information, details or to schedule an interview, please contact
713.527.7700

Casey Baden, Associate Director Casey@LauraRathe.com