

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2005

Media Contact: Elizabeth East

Telephone: 310-822-4955

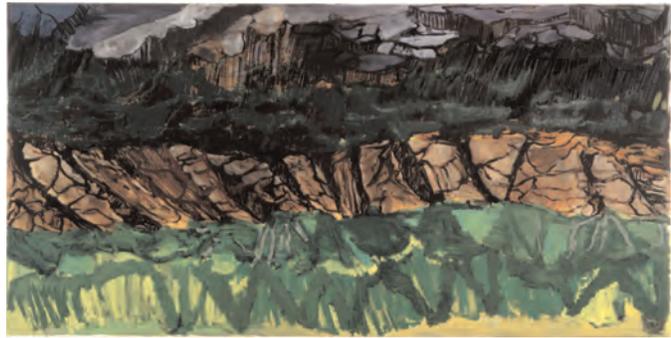
E-mail: Elizabeth@lalouver.com

Per Kirkeby: Paintings 2004-2005

May 19 – June 18, 2005

Opening Reception:

Thursday, May 19, 2005, 6-8 p.m.



Untitled, 2003
oil on canvas, 78 3/4 x 147 1/2 in. [200 x 400 cm]

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to announce an exhibition of new oil paintings by the Danish artist Per Kirkeby.

While Kirkeby's paintings defy categorization as either abstract or representational, *nature* continues as a central motif in the artist's new work. Nature is conveyed through layers of paint and coloured surfaces that overlap to create a poetic rendition of the subject. Kirkeby describes the composition of his paintings as a 'deposit,' which is itself a geological term. As such, the materiality and the subject of the paintings are intertwined, as they are both composed of, and allude to, surface and substrata conditions, structure and erosion. Kirkeby's work operates within the grand Romantic tradition, marrying the poetic and metaphysical to the scientific investigation of object matter.

Considered the preminent artist of his native country, Kirkeby has a long and distinguished exhibition history, particularly in Europe. ***Per Kirkeby: Paintings 2004-2005*** is a rare occasion to see the artist's work in the United States, where his last solo show at LA Louver was in 1997.

Born in 1938 in Copenhagen, Per Kirkeby studied natural history at the University of Copenhagen, 1957-1964, graduating with a dissertation in arctic (quaternary) geology. During this time he also studied painting and performance at the Experimental School of Art, and became affiliated with the Fluxus movement. From these early years he explored a variety of art forms, including not only painting and performance, but also sculpture, architecture, drawing, printmaking, film and literature. This depth and range of interests has continued to inspire Kirkeby in all facets of his long and varied career.

In 1976 Kirkeby represented Denmark at the Venice Biennale. Prominent exhibitions followed, including Kunsthalle, Berne 1979; Documenta VII, 1982; Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, 1985; Museum Ludwig, Cologne, 1987; Documenta IX, 1992; Venice Biennial 1993; Istanbul Biennial and Carnegie International Biennial, 1995; Tate Gallery, London; Aarhus Art Museum and Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1998; Kunstmuseum Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, 1999. Other creative ventures have included performances with Joseph Beuys, 1966; Nam June Paik and Immendorf, 1967; architectural projects at Ikast, 1973 and West Himmerland Art Museum (with Jens Bertelsen), 1996; theatre direction including Strindberg's *In Rome* with the theatre group Babylons tømmerflåde in Venice, 1984 and scenery design for New City Ballet's production of *Swan Lake* in 1999. Kirkeby is an author with over seventy published titles, including the novels *2.15*, 1967; *The Characters*, 1970; *Drawings*, 1980; and *After-Images*, 1988 and the poetry volumes *2 digte*, 1973; *References*, 1983 and *Reflections*, 1986. Kirkeby's numerous essays include *Floating Leaves*, 1974, *Natural History*, 1984, and texts on such artists as *Manet* and *Delacroix*, 1990; *Picasso*, 1992; *Van Gogh*, 1997, *Michaelangelo*, 2000 and *Giacometti*, 2002.

Concurrent with Per Kirkeby, *Tony Berlant: Night Bloom* — an exhibition of desert nocturnes and night-blooming flower subjects — is on view in the second floor gallery.

For further information and visuals, please contact Elizabeth East, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA 90291; telephone 310-822-4955; fax: 310-821-7529; e-mail: elizabeth@lalouver.com; website: www.lalouver.com