



Intersection, 2013
 artist-fabricated tin and found tin collaged on plywood panel with steel brads
 70 x 53 in. (177.8 x 134.6 cm)

TONY BERLANT

CLOSE TO HOME

30 October – 29 November 2014

Reception for the artist: Thursday, 30 October, 6-8 pm

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to present an exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist Tony Berlant. In these new collages, Berlant continues his exploration of tin and photographic materials, and pays homage to his longtime Santa Monica neighborhood with some of his most personal and intimate works to date. (To view a short film on Berlant discussing this body of work, visit www.lalouver.com/berlant2014)

The foundation of these collages is photographs Berlant has shot in the vicinity of his home, and from outside his living room window. Berlant prints the photographs on sheets of tin, which he attaches to wood panels with steel brads. The printed sheets cover both the front and sides of the panels. Photography has always played a key role in the artist's work. In this new series, Berlant gives his photography center stage. In concert with, or

in counterpoint to, the foundational photographic image, Berlant collages a combination of found and artist-fabricated colored tin onto the surface. In some instances he follows contours and shapes inherent in the underlying image, such as the tree branches of *One Way or Another*. In other compositions, Berlant juxtaposes or “transplants” visual elements, such as the swirling form mimicking a datura blossom in *Visitation* or the brightly colored tree in *Intersection*. In other works Berlant takes an even more free form approach, such as *The Good Shepherd*, where exploding bursts of color cascade from the top of an inverted street scene, clamoring with police activity. “The whole street is like a stage set... there are literal things and things in my mind that I project into that space,” says Berlant. “It’s this combination of very literal depiction and highly subjective images all mixed-up together.”

In one work, titled *Alone With Myself*, Berlant does not add any collage materials, allowing the printed photograph to absorb the visual field. This results in a haunting portrayal of the subject, which Berlant describes as “the fascinating and richly evocative banality of the west side of Los Angeles.”

One of the most revealing works in the exhibition is seemingly unrelated to Berlant's home. Rather, the artist puts himself on display in *Past and Present*, one of the largest works in the exhibition. Measuring 130 x 99 in. (330.2 x 251.5 cm), images of Berlant's skin, rendered pallid and almost unrecognizable, are interlaced with vividly exuberant collaged forms. “Age is a factor now,” says Berlant, “celebrating life, but being aware of mortality, your own body, and hidden images that are there, and the things that are in your head that come out in the process of making art. It's like discovering something very close to home.”

In 1959, Tony Berlant attended the University of Southern California, but after a year transferred to UCLA, earning a B.A. in 1961, M.A. in 1962, and M.F.A. in 1963. In 1960, he was recognized by Clement Greenberg, who selected one of his paintings for inclusion in a regional exhibition of artists at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. In 1964, the same museum awarded Berlant the New Talent Purchase Grant. Since this time, his work has been exhibited throughout the United States, including solo shows at Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; and Henry Art Gallery, Seattle, Washington (1973/74); Contemporary Art Museum, Houston, Texas, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art (1982); Centro Cultural del Arte Contemporaneo, Mexico City, Mexico (1988); and The Contemporary Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii (2003). In summer 1997, Berlant's work was included in the Louisiana Museum's presentation of *Sunshine Noir: Art in LA 1960-1997*, and in 2006, he participated in the landmark exhibition, *Los Angeles 1955-1985* at the Centre Pompidou, Paris, France. In 2011-2012, the Getty initiative *Pacific Standard Time* featured Berlant in two pivotal exhibitions: *Artistic Evolution – Southern California Artists at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County: 1945-1963*, Natural History Museum, Los Angeles, CA and *Under the Big Black Sun: California Art, 1974-1981*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles, CA.



Alone With Myself, 2014
 artist fabricated tin on plywood panel with steel brads
 108 x 99 in. (274.3 x 251.5 cm)

Currently, three large-scale architectural sculptures that Berlant created in the mid-1960s (previously exhibited in *The Marriage of New York and Athens* at the Whitney Museum of American Art in 1973) are being permanently installed on the grounds of the Château La Coste in Aix-en-Provence, and will be presented in individual glass and steel structures designed by Frank Gehry.



NEW FILM:

A new short film on Tony Berlant has been produced in conjunction with the exhibition and can be viewed at: www.lalouver.com/berlant2014

Concurrently on view at L.A. Louver, 30 October –29 November, 2014






SECOND FLOOR

Rogue Wave Projects: Heather Gwen Martin -- An exhibition of new abstract paintings by the Los Angeles-based artist. Martin's first solo show with L.A. Louver is presented as part of the gallery's ongoing *Rogue Wave Projects*, which provides a platform for local and international contemporary artists.

SKYROOM

Sui Jianguo: Holly (2014) -- Cast bronze sculpture by Beijing-based artist.

For more information and visuals, please contact Christina Carlos, L.A. Louver, 45 North Venice Boulevard, Venice, CA, USA, www.lalouver.com
 tel: 310-822-4955; fax: 310-821-7529; e-mail: Christina@lalouver.com Gallery Hours: Tues - Sat, 10 - 6 PM; Validated parking available

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