

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TITLE: Palm Trees, Street Signs and Powerlines: An Urban Landscape
WHO: James P. Scott
WHAT: An Exhibition of Modern Urban Landscape Paintings
RECEPTION: Sunday, August 2nd, 2009, 1:00 - 3:00 PM, artist talk at 2:00 PM
DATES: August 2nd - 23rd, 2009
WHERE: LA Artcore: Brewery Annex, 650 A South Avenue 21, Los Angeles, CA
90031. Phone: 323.276.9320, Hours: Thu - Sun / 12 - 4pm, Wed / Appt. only

Los Angeles, CA (May 25, 2009) - LA Artcore announces an exhibition of original artwork by James P. Scott. Included in this exhibit are original oil paintings exploring themes of the Los Angeles urban landscape through an intense and voracious use of color. The colors are explosive, vibrant and bold. Color compliments, split compliments and other color chords resound across the surface of these canvases, contributing to a feeling of exuberance and transcendence. These dramatic paintings examine what it is to live, work and navigate around Los Angeles. James disregards elements such as traffic congestion, people, and pollution. Instead, he chooses to focus on other familiar, apparently innocuous everyday elements, including street signs and palm trees. The artist turns these elements into symbols that exert their emotive energy to powerful effect, impelling the viewers' acknowledgment of beauty in the stressful everyday scene.

Abstract and representational passages, layering of color, brushwork, texture, and build up of paint combine to create a rich history within the work — like the cracked and peeling surface of an old door providing us a glimpse into its' colorful past. Within this body of work are depictions of light, environment, and the passing of time. While these paintings draw from the artist's personal experience, wider, universal concerns also come into play: the common lot of humanity as it relates to "So Cal" residents and other urban dwellers as well. Each painting is like a stage set drawing viewers in and encouraging them to participate in the scene. These images transcend the familiar to become more interesting than the memory of "real life." The viewer is drawn into an experience of the city where they encounter artifacts of humanity: buildings, signs, graffiti, power poles, over/under passes, and the reorganization of nature to suit human needs. This experience becomes a kind of archaeological exploration, reading clues from the artist to the history of the subjects depicted.

As living beings we have daily journeys and life journeys, public journeys and private journeys. This series represents a study of the artist's journey. Most of us know what it's like to be a traveler, looking for signs... directions... the correct course... the desire to reach a destination. Some signs are flagrant while others can barely be seen at all. Some street signs we encounter can take on a totem-esque quality in their importance as symbols. The street signs in these paintings tell us where we are and where we're going, yet each has its' own mystique — the "legitimate:" "freeway entrance," tagged with the "illegitimate:" graffiti, environmental damage, etc. These elements are combined with buildings, mountains, and powerlines to create unique visions of the Los Angeles landscape.

Gallery Contact: Nicholette Kominos - info@laartcore.org – 323 276 9320

Media Contact: Wendy Sherman - wendy_sherman@artslave.com – 310 829 0770

For more information: www.jamespescott.com -- www.laartcore.org