





## HK Zamani: "Remembering and Forgetting" at CB1 Gallery

by christopher michno

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*Untitled 20*

2013

Oil on canvas

11" x 14"

Photo: Jay Oigny

Courtesy the artist and CB1 Gallery

Known as the founder of LA's adventurous POST gallery, HK Zamani is also an adept and versatile artist. In his second solo show at CB1 Gallery, titled "Remembering and Forgetting"--paired here nicely with "Raven," Susan Silas' solo of photographs in CB1's West Gallery--Zamani resumes his investigation of philosophical and visual poetics with 12 new untitled paintings. The remembering and forgetting heralded in the show's title anchors Zamani's painting in an exploration of the ephemera of daily life--objects, scenes, memories--as much as it is reflective of his painting process. One gets the sense that he is feeling his way about, each pass at the canvas suggesting an intimate wash of thought, even a struggle, followed by obliteration--though not entirely--of what was there before. Or perhaps, more accurately, one could say each work examines the new surge of ideas that builds on what was initially set down, as if each canvas represents, not the specifics of thought, but rather the amorphous flood of ideas that storm through the artist's mind.

Zamani's cartoonish shapes and thickly textural brushwork often elicit apt comparisons to the late Philip Guston. Less figurative than Guston's late paintings, Zamani's paintings are filled with largely indeterminate, curvilinear and often clunky shapes that are only sometimes recognizable, flipping curiously between abstraction and almost-representation. *Untitled 20* (2013) resembles the back of a chair pushed up against a table, whereas *Untitled 16* (2013) appears as a couple of dense clouds in blanketed sky. Solid shapes in these works mask the beginnings of other forms that have been obscured by scumbling or otherwise reclaimed in the action of painting, hinting at something just beneath the surface. And, at times, it is more than a hint; plainly visible in the sculptural surface of *Untitled 20*, spindles of white, equally spaced with the black vertical lines, clearly delineate the painter's change in direction. Zamani works by continuous revision. Perhaps it is a struggle to find where one ends the work. It is also a relentless probing of the nature of objects, existence, or thought: an ongoing negotiation with surface and form, content and recognition. In the shapes beneath veils of paint, in the indications of prefatory explorations, Zamani observes streams of thought, strains to capture them, and then covers them as they fade.

CB1 Gallery  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

HK Zamani

***Remembering and Forgetting***

September 8 - October 13, 2013

Reception for the artist: Sunday September 8, 5 - 7 p.m.

Los Angeles, CA (August 13, 2013) – CB1 Gallery is pleased to present our second solo exhibition of work by **HK Zamani, *Remembering and Forgetting***. The exhibition will be on view from September 8 - October 13, 2013. A reception for the artist will be held on Sunday, September 8, 5 - 7 p.m.

***Remembering and Forgetting***

“The important thing to the remembering author is not what he experienced but the weaving of his memory.” (Walter Benjamin)

“Inspiration, pure instinct, is the only raison d’être of the poet.” (Federico Garcia Lorca)

“The last line of resistance is poetry. My films are poetry because I do everything. My quest is thoroughly irrational. What I want to do is shatter time. With Santa Sangre I move away from more cerebral toward emotional. It is very beautiful.” (Alejandro Jodorowsky)

“In the Iranian culture poetry is very important. We have not had much of an image history. French cinema is inspired by photography and painting. Images are prohibited in Islam for religious reasons. However, Iran is the land of poets. Our images come from our poems.” (Mohsen Makhmalbaf)

“Time split in springs and gears and stained its musty raft. She missed her and he missed her and they tore the last of it, and found the fief of vapor in barren requiem fields, and pushed musty wheels of Xerxes delicately stitched to the folds in his cloak and hands.” (HK Zamani)

Iranian-born artist HK Zamani (Habib Kheradyar Zamani) lives and works in Los Angeles. His work is guided by extreme influences ranging from ascetic Islam to psychedelia. He has exhibited in many cosmopolitan cities, among them New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Berlin, London, Vienna, Prague, Seoul and Saigon. His work is in the permanent collections of LA County Museum and Berkeley Museum of Art. He has received the C.O.L.A. and the California Foundation Getty Grants. CB1 Gallery represents his work. Zamani is the founder and director of PØST (1995-present), a subversive venue for contemporary art, where over four hundred exhibitions have been presented.

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For more information about the artist or the exhibition contact Clyde Beswick, Gallery Director at 213-806-7889 or [clyde@cb1gallery.com](mailto:clyde@cb1gallery.com). [www.cb1gallery.com](http://www.cb1gallery.com)