

Donald Cole: Unpredictable Arrivals
November 1 – December 29, 2007
Opening Reception: First Thursday, November 1, 5-8 pm

Seattle, Washington – October 2, 2007

ArtXchange Gallery is pleased to present “Unpredictable Arrivals,” a new solo exhibition featuring the work of Donald Cole. Twenty-three new paintings, executed between the years of 2005 through 2007, represent both a continuation and a new phase in Cole’s exploration of the abstract visual qualities and emotional effects of the written forms of language. “These works are a continuation of the inexhaustible possibilities available in abstraction from sources that inspire me to paint,” says Mr. Cole of this new exhibition.

In “Unpredictable Arrivals,” Cole contrasts the angular forms of Sanskrit with the rounder, gestural forms of Malayalam, the language of Kerala, in south India. In the latest works, the written characters themselves become even more abstract, creating texts of Cole’s own design - shapes that mimic language, but whose meanings lie somewhere in the emotive qualities of the paintings themselves.

Cole continues his exploration of surface and texture in these new works – layers of cracking, distressed paint evoke the surface quality of torn layers of posters and signs, peeling paint on wood and weathered frescoes on crumbling stone walls. Cole also continues his exploration of color – vibrant, intense hues that clash and co-mingle in a distinctly Eastern palette. “Making a painting is a journey of discovery,” says Mr. Cole, “following the path of inspiration to a destination that I could not foresee.” These new paintings are the ‘unpredictable arrivals’ of an intuitive master artist following his path of inspiration.

Donald Cole was born in New York City and currently resides on Vashon Island in Washington. Mr. Cole’s active career as an artist and educator has led him across the world, with extensive travel in Asia continuing to be a primary source of inspiration for his work. Mr. Cole has exhibited at galleries and museums across the country, including New York City, Los Angeles, and Seattle, as well as internationally in Japan and France. His work is included in numerous public and private collections, including the ARCO Center for the Visual Arts in Los Angeles, the Portland Art Museum in Oregon, and the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts. Mr. Cole has been the recipient of a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and his work has been reviewed in many past and present publications, including ArtForum, Art News and the New York Times.

Regionally, Donald Cole has exhibited his works at galleries including Foster/White Gallery, Jeffrey Moose Gallery, and Gallery 070. His paintings have been shown at the Tacoma Art Museum Biennials in 2001 and 2004. Mr. Cole is currently represented by ArtXchange gallery. “Unpredictable Arrivals” opens during the monthly First Thursday Artwalk in Pioneer Square, November 1 from 5 – 8 pm. Mr. Cole will be in attendance and further interviews can be arranged by contacting ArtXchange.

A full catalog of the works in “Unpredictable Arrivals,” including an essay on Cole’s work by writer John Levy, is being published by ArtXchange in conjunction with the exhibition.

LOCATION: ArtXchange Gallery, 512 First Ave S, Seattle, WA 98104