

Press Release: Tuesday, March 26, 2013

# DARKNESS and *Light*: Abstract Expressionism

*"An exhibition that speaks to the present state of American Art"*

Paintings by **James Winfield Hack** and **Kurt von Behrmann**

**Where:** {9} The Gallery, 1229 Grand Ave. Phoenix AZ, 85007

**When:** Two openings: "First Friday", April 5<sup>th</sup> and an Artist Reception on "Third Friday," April 19<sup>th</sup> 2013

**What Time:** Both events begin at 6 p.m. and end at approximately 10:00 p.m.

Abstract Expressionism is literally defined by unfettered expression that makes no concessions to expectations. Continuing in this maverick tradition of American Art, James Winfield Hack and Kurt von Behrmann have created bodies of work that speak to the supremacy of individual uncompromising personal self-expression as the principle guide for creating fine art.

Instead of vapid nostalgia, or recreating what has been said, the works selected for this exhibition are unencumbered by "narratives," or the reliance of representational imagery to make a statement. Color, shape, form and surface textures are the vehicles for communication.

"The way a work of art is constructed is just as important as what is being expressed," said von Behrmann. From the selection of colors, to the size of a canvas, classical Abstract Expressionism places a premium on art as a record of highly personal ideas and the process involved in making those concepts accessible. Complex, deeply private, and often intellectual in scope, these works are both difficult to understand, but easy to appreciate if you look at the work visually. Even if unaware of the deeper message, the works are substantial enough that extensive background information is not always necessary to "get" the message.

There will be an opening on "First Friday", April 5<sup>th</sup> from 6 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. A reception for the Artists will be held on the "Third Friday" of the month, April 19<sup>th</sup> also beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. Both events are free and open to the public.

For contact additional information, images, interviews please contact Laura Dragon, Owner of {9} the Gallery via email at [info@9thegallery.com](mailto:info@9thegallery.com) and by phone at 602-258-0959.

{9} The Gallery is located on the web at: <http://9.thegallery.com>

The art work of **James Winfield Hack** is at online at <http://www.jameshack.com> for images and background information.

The art work of **Kurt von Behrmann** is online at [www.behrmannart.com](http://www.behrmannart.com)