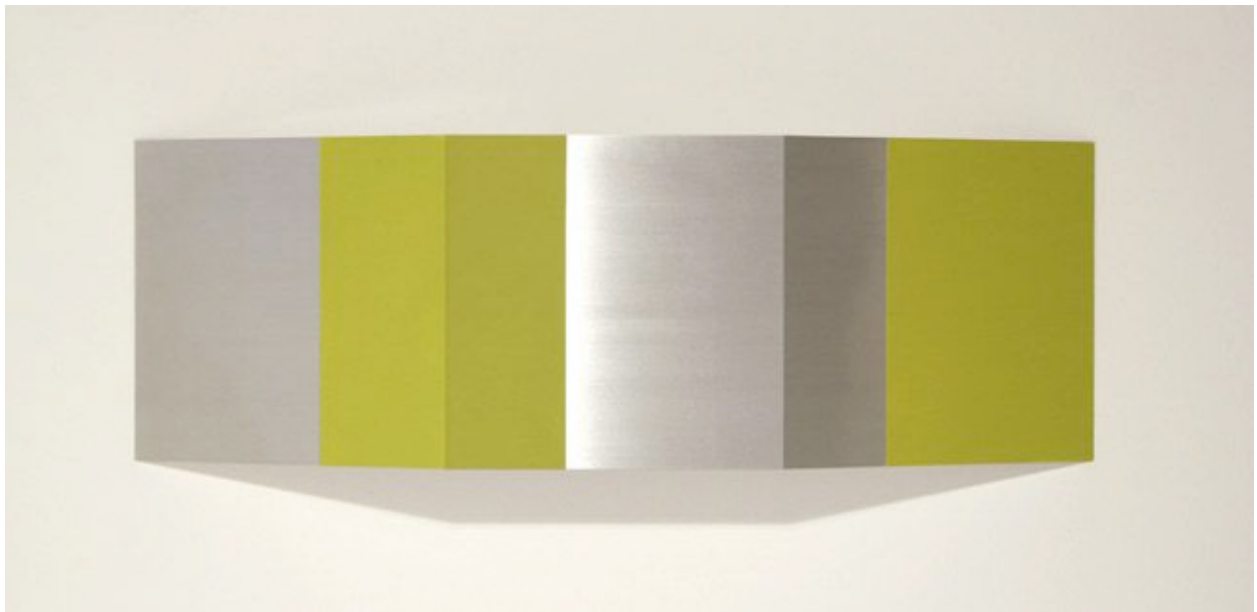


JAMES KELLY CONTEMPORARY - PRESS RELEASE
1601 Paseo de Peralta - Santa Fe, NM 87501 - 505.989.1601

Stuart Arends

Wedges and A-Squares

Opening Reception: Friday, April 27, 2007, 5:00-7:00 pm
Exhibition Dates: April 27 - June 23, 2007
Contact: Hannah Hughes: hannah@jameskelly.com



Stuart Arends. *Wedge 46*, 2007. Oil paint on aluminum with clear lacquer. 6 x 18 x 2-5/8 inches.

James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to announce the exhibition, ***Stuart Arends: Wedges and A-Squares***.

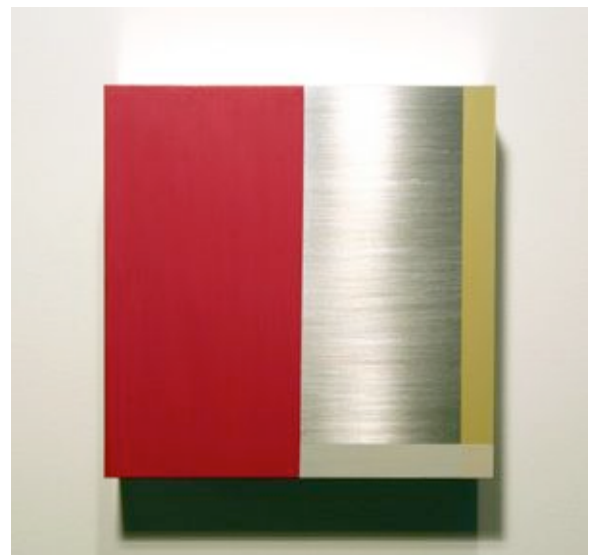
For his third solo show at James Kelly Contemporary, New Mexico based artist, Stuart Arends, will present works from two new painting series, *Wedges* and *A-Squares*, as well as work from the ongoing *Stanza dell'Amore* series. By utilizing generic subject matter and emphasizing the object quality of his paintings, Arends sets up the potential for direct access to an aesthetic experience grounded in traditional painting issues of color, light, space and scale.

The *Wedges* and the *A-Squares* are wall mounted machined aluminum forms with oil paint; the *Wedges* are horizontal faceted forms, whereas the *A-Squares* are block forms. In a new development, areas of aluminum remain unpainted and play off the painted surfaces. Works from the *Stanza dell'Amore* series incorporate the split stripe pattern common in European coats of arms and are comprised of oil and wax layers on vertical wooden supports. All three bodies of work derive from Arends' first painted cardboard box piece from 1980. While asserting themselves as relatively simple objects, these recent works also undermine this simplicity because the surfaces vary dramatically depending on the viewer's point of view

as well as light and architectural conditions. An Arends painting does not allow us to fall into it, but addresses us physically and then seduces us into a careful consideration of its sensual qualities.

Stuart Arends was born in 1950 in Waterloo, Iowa. He studied as an undergraduate in Colorado and in 1981 obtained his MFA from Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles. After his participation in the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program in 1983, he settled in New Mexico. He currently lives and works in Willard, New Mexico and Milan, Italy.

Arends has exhibited widely in the United States and Europe. Museum shows include "La Collezione Panza: Appleby, Arends, Truitte, Colombo" at the Università della Svizzera in Mendriso, Switzerland; "Paint on Metal" at Tucson Museum of Art in Arizona in 2005; and a solo exhibition at Akron Art Museum in Ohio in 1998. He has had recent gallery exhibitions at Studio La Citta in Verona, and Bjorn Ressle in New York. His work is in many outstanding public collections, including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Museo di Arte, Rovereto e Trento, Italy; Museo Cantonale d'Arte, Lugano, Switzerland; Langen Foundation, Dusseldorf, Germany; Werner Kramarsky Collection, New York; Berlingieri Collection, Castello di San Basilio, Italy; Villa Panza, Varese, Italy; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York; and Lannan Foundation, Santa Fe, New Mexico.



Stuart Arends. *A-Square 3*, 2007. Oil paint on aluminum with clear lacquer. 6 x 6 x 2-1/2 inches (on left)

Stuart Arends. *A-Square 4*, 2007. Oil paint on aluminum with clear lacquer. 6 x 6 x 2-1/2 inches (on right)

James Kelly Contemporary is located at 1601 Paseo de Peralta, Santa Fe, NM 87501. Gallery hours for the duration of this show are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00-5:00 p.m. - Saturday from 12:00-5:00 p.m. - Monday by appointment. Please call the gallery at 505.989.1601 - fax 505.989.5005 - email hannah@jameskelly.com for more information.

- high resolution images available upon request -