

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DAVID SIMPSON:

OCTOBER 3RD THROUGH NOVEMBER 29TH, 2003

OPENING RECEPTION FOR THE ARTIST: Friday, October 3RD from 5-7 PM

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James Kelly Contemporary is pleased to present new monochrome works by Bay Area abstract painter **David Simpson**.

Born in 1928 in Pasadena California, Simpson has explored varieties of abstraction since the early 1950's. He was selected to participate in Museum of Modern Art's exhibition of Contemporary American Art in 1963 and then went on to exhibit in Clement Greenberg's famous exhibition "Past Painterly Abstraction" at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 1964. Simpson taught for many years at the University of California at Berkeley.

In the late 1970's Simpson practiced a reductive but relational mode of abstraction. With a discovery of a new acrylic medium in 1987, he was able to embrace, successfully, the monochrome's radicalism. He uses an acrylic paint with interference properties creating a metallic looking sheen. The interference paint is prepared with titanium dioxide electronically coated with mica particles.

Simpson's paintings produce an iridescent surface often creating an illusion of the true size and shape of the canvas. As the viewer changes their positioning in front of the painting so does the color change, making it difficult to pinpoint the exact depth, hue, or ambiance of the piece.

His process is prosaic. First he paints his canvases flat with numerous layers of acrylic pigment, sanded to build a colored gesso ground. He then applies several layers of interference paint with a blade-like metal tool creating a visual affect of even density and thickness. The surface then results in a crystalline structure much resembling galvanized zinc and other metals.

"Look at these paintings long and closely enough and you start to feel energy- of light and mood materialized as color- ricocheting from wall to wall. His roomful of small square canvases on flat stretchers produces an effect best described as a ringing in the eyes" (Keith Baker, San Francisco Chronicle, 1990).

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST