

# MITCHELL-INNES & NASH



**Joe Bradley & Chris Martin  
February 25 – March 27**



New York, January 22, 2010 - Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present a two-person exhibition of New York painters Joe Bradley and Chris Martin in the Chelsea gallery from February 25 – March 27. Both artists will present a group of new works. The exhibition was conceived as part of an ongoing dialogue between the two painters.

*JB: ... You know, wishful thinking is the way things start. It kind of seeps into reality after a while.*

CM: I wish we could all wish for not knowing what we are doing. But in a good way. I think there's a sense of freedom that comes from everybody not being too sure what they're doing. Someone once said about New York in the early 1950s, late '40s, after Expressionism was sort of bursting onto the scene, "There was a moment, maybe six weeks or so, when no one had any idea how to make a painting." And that's a lovely idea, that we don't know what we're doing...

*JB: There's this Guston quote that I think is brilliant, that when you're in the studio, your friends and family are there and the ghosts of art history are there, your contemporaries are there. If you stay long enough they all leave, and if you're lucky you leave...*

CM: Right, so the real discipline is that one goes to the studio or one goes to a space where one is available to the muse. There are no preconditions, only that you go there and you move colored dirt around. The discipline is listening to the colored dirt telling you what to do. So the discipline is showing up and staying...

*JB: It's really hard to articulate but I do think that that's the place to be when you're making art. I mean you need one foot on turf, on land, and one foot in the cosmos.*

CM: It's like being inside and outside at the same time. On the one hand you are in trance, on the other hand you are watching yourself paint. And I think the key is that when you are watching yourself paint you don't judge, you just watch. The less I judge the more I can actually create and see what I'm doing.

*JB: The stuff that always sticks with me is the work that I see and I'm like, "I want to make something." You know what I mean? You're allowed to keep doing it. It's not like an end game sort of thing where this is throwing down the gauntlet. You know, it is open-ended.*

CM: Yeah, that's right. God, we sound like a couple of old Beats. If you are reading this now, we don't know what we're talking about, and we don't know where this is going. Just like our best paintings.

The above dialogue is excerpted from an interview published in The Journal in Fall 2009.

(over)

## MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

Joe Bradley was born in 1975 and lives and works in Brooklyn. He received his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 1999. He has had solo exhibitions at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center and Canada in New York, and at Peres Projects in Los Angeles and Berlin. His work was included in the Whitney Biennial in 2008. He is represented in New York by Canada.

Chris Martin was born in 1954 and lives and works in Brooklyn. He received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts and attended Yale University. Recent group shows have included “Abstract America” at the Saatchi Gallery in London, “Painting as Fact – Fact as Fiction” at de Pury and Luxembourg, Zurich, and “The Painted World” at P.S.1. His work is represented in the collections of the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C. and the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago. He is represented by Mitchell-Innes & Nash.

**Opening Reception:** Thursday February 25, 6 – 8 pm

**Listings information:** Mitchell-Innes & Nash is located at 534 West 26<sup>th</sup> Street. Tel: 212 744 7400

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Images:

Left, Joe Bradley, Big Heart, 2009, oil on canvas

Right, Chris Martin, Pillow Painting, 2007-2009, oil and collage on canvas