

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

CHRIS MARTIN

Works on Paper
Mitchell-Innes & Nash Uptown
February 12 – March 27



January 12, 2009 – NEW YORK:

Mitchell-Innes & Nash will present an exhibition of works on paper by Chris Martin in its Madison Avenue gallery from February 12 through March 27. This will be the artist's second solo show with Mitchell-Innes & Nash.

The exhibition will include over forty works from the last twenty years. The works in the show capture Martin's spirit of experimentation and demonstrate an almost compulsive approach to art-making. The drawings and paintings on paper utilize wildly diverse materials, from paint and crayon to fabric, aluminum foil, album covers and the artist's own last will and testament. They vary from rapid sketches to collages and complete paintings, and explore Martin's recurrent themes of geometric forms, seven-pointed stars, number systems, and jazz icons. Some imagery hints at the mystical and psychedelic – mushrooms and pyramids – while other works fall squarely within the traditions of abstraction.

For Martin, the two are not necessarily distinct: abstract painters are his shamans, their works talismanic. His irreverent references to artists including Alfred Jensen, Frank Stella, and Barnett Newman yield a body of work both playful and utterly serious about the practice of painting.

Chris Martin was born in 1954 and lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. 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 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York. He is represented by Mitchell-Innes & Nash.

Listing Information:

Mitchell-Innes & Nash: 1018 Madison Avenue, 5th Floor (between 78th and 79th)

Gallery Hours: Monday – Friday 10-5 T: 212.744.7400

Opening Reception: Thursday February 12, 6-8 pm

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Image caption: CHRIS MARTIN, "Arizona..." 2000, Acrylic and watercolor on paper 19 1/4 by 15 1/4 in. 48.9 by 38.7 cm.