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PRESS RELEASE

SAGE PROJECTS

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MICHAEL LUKAS

THE SUN AIN'T GONNA SHINE ANYMORE

JULY 9 - 30 2016

OPENING RECEPTION: SATURDAY, JULY 9th // 7-10pm

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© Michael Lukas

SAGE Projects is pleased to present an all new body of work by Vienna-based artist Michael Lukas in his solo exhibition “The Sun Ain’t Gonna Shine Anymore”. A monochromatic series of paintings and works on paper, this exhibition challenges the viewer to consider alternative methods of perception, while evoking a reflection on transcendence and space.

The pieces in this exhibition share a common spatial , architectural makeup, with plays on dimension and inversion. Exuding the erratic ornamentation of Pollock, with the distinct structure reminiscent of Mondrian’s grids, Lukas’ practice seems to ride a fine line between the calculated and the complex, the visceral and the voracious.

Through employing inventive methods of application of both white and black paint, Lukas’s paintings are all at once meditative and arresting. At times, the works are like staring directly into the workings of a human brain. Within a clearly systematic structure of grids, neurons seem to fire - the dramatic effects being displayed in unpredictable movements across the canvas. At other times, the painting takes on a life of its own, a nearly three dimensional glimpse into another realm just out of reach.

It is found in “Untitled 4”, Lukas’s sole hint at form, that he displays a keen prowess of two of arts most antithetical techniques - figuration and abstraction. His skillful marriage of the two styles seems to give reference

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to a hidden theme permeating throughout. The works in this show, seemingly cold and calculated at first, are all at once heavy with narrative. A struggle on the canvas becomes suddenly apparent. The clean lines of conformity are met with a feverish velocity as spaces converge. Something or someone it seems, is desperately trying to get inside (or out of) the painting. In this way, Lukas's ability to animate the traditional and one-dimensional gives way to a greater understanding of how and why opposites attract.

Lukas's works on paper take on an opacity all themselves. From a distance, what initially appears to the viewer to be unambiguous shape and form, takes on a murky quality characteristic of a Rorschach Test as the viewer's eyes attempt to focus on the piece from a closer vantage point. Such illusory traits are likely key elements of Lukas's work, which seems to aim at transcending the limits of abstraction and minimalism, ultimately communicating the intangible, metaphysical worlds that exist just beyond the naked eye. - *Shanoa Garcia*

For inquiries please email shanoa@sage-projects.com.

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#thesunaintgonshineanymore