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**Solo Exhibitions by Zeke Williams and Hidenori Ishii  
Opening at Erin Cluley Gallery May 22nd**

[Dallas, Texas – May 13, 2021] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce the concurrent solo exhibitions *OVER AND BACK* by Dallas artist **ZEKE WILLIAMS** and *UNDER CONSTRUCTION* by Long Island City artist **HIDENORI ISHII**. The exhibitions will be on view May 22<sup>nd</sup> through June 26<sup>th</sup> at the gallery located in the Dallas Design District at 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 210, with an opening reception on Saturday, May 22 from 5-8 PM.

In his fourth solo exhibition with the gallery, **ZEKE WILLIAMS** creates montages of dazzling pattern, shape, and color. Beginning as outlined compositions making reference to landscape imagery of National Parks, the works on wood are imbued with the artist's customized patterns reminiscent of quilting designs. Evolving from previous works executed as digital paintings printed onto canvas, the works featured in *OVER AND BACK* find themselves being made with the same set of digital tools but with the return of the artist's hand.

Williams' new works are created by laser-cutting and engraving wood pieces and hand painting them with an array of colors – some areas even chose to be left bare to reveal the natural properties of the wood. The pieces are then assembled together like a puzzle, emphasizing Williams' love for games and playful qualities in art making. The discovery of working with engraved wood in the studio came about when Williams was printmaking with a woodblock and came to realize that the wooden plate was more enticing than the print itself.

Although much of his work leans into the abstract realm, *OVER AND BACK* focuses on Williams' recent venture into landscapes. The images are sourced from photographs taken by his grandparents while on trips to National Parks such as Yellowstone and Zion during the artist's youth.

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**HIDENORI ISHII**'s exhibition *UNDER CONSTRUCTION* was created during his yearlong keyholder residency at LES (Lower East Side) Printshop in New York City. The works are made from the square plexiglass windows installed on the city's pervasive green construction barrier walls and are a collaboration with unknown graffiti artists of the area. The series raises questions about the social and economic impact of wealth inequality, gentrification, and the global pandemic.

The process begins by Ishii creating screen printed imagery as "tagging" on his own plexiglass window and switching it out with one installed on the street that is already graffitied. The marked windows are then fitted with a backing of screen printed fiber paper mounted on green panel. The prints are composed of enlarged images of American bills of

currency – cropped and placed intentionally to interact with the graffiti marks on the surface. The works act as direct responses to events happening at the time of their creation.

The collaborative series began during the pandemic while much of New York City was still shut down. Ishii saw this as an opportunity to view and display art at a time when this concept felt impossible. The artist's exchanging of the windows brings to mind the exchanging of money and the green walls dividing two different social groups are seen as symbols of the city's changing landscape – with the graffiti acting as a direct response to this change from its citizens.

The juxtaposition of the layered processes with the works visualizes the skewed imbalance of our economy as Ishii compares the currency to art – both an abstract concept, illusionistic, and yet fundamental to our modern life.

## About the Artists

**ZEKE WILLIAMS** was born in Concord, Massachusetts in 1979, grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, and received his BA from the University of Texas at Dallas. Following graduation, he went on to work at the Angstrom Gallery in Dallas and has contributed writing for *Glasstire*, an online Texas-based media outlet for arts criticism.

Williams' work has been exhibited in spaces such as The Arlington Museum of Art, North Park Center, and Site 131, and is included in the collections of Toyota Headquarters, UT Southwestern Medical Center, and The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History. Williams has been a participant in both the Joong Boo Artist Residency and the residency at the Sydney Art Space. His work has been featured in publications including *The Dallas Morning News*, *Glasstire*, *D Magazine*, and *Arts and Culture Texas*.

Williams lives and works in Dallas, TX and recently received his MFA at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, TX in Spring 2021. He enjoys musical theater, NBA basketball, drag performances, and sandwiches served on French bread.

**HIDENORI ISHII**'s work investigates the paradoxical dichotomy of civilization and nature through the interdependence which lies in between. The artist reveals a tenuous axis on which the two worlds serendipitously coexist, merging past and future onto a single plane.

Ishii's abstractions in painting and installation invert binaries of nature and camouflage, disaster and neglect, artificiality and object. They are characterized by such negations; images materialize from obstruction and walls eradicate structure. Just as the visible and concealed fluctuate, the work wavers from completion - as though it is still growing, eroding, or waiting for the reflection to break on the water's surface.

The narrative of Ishii's work exists within a margin of disbelief, reminding us that fiction diverges from fact. His earlier project, *IcePlants*, was a direct response to the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant meltdown, and considered how beauty might persist as landscape turns mutant. The possibilities presented in Ishii's work suggest how we might connect political ecology and social consciousness to face our current climactic crisis.

Ishii was born and raised in Yonezawa, Japan. His interest in environmental science brought him to study at university in the US. He is a graduate of the Hoffberger School of Painting at the Maryland Institute College of Art and a Joan Mitchell MFA Fellowship Nominee. His work has been exhibited widely in numerous group and solo exhibitions in the United States. He currently lives and works in New York.

# ERIN CLULEY GALLERY

## **About Erin Cluley Gallery**

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

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