

# JASON VASS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY JANUARY 14, 2016

## **JASON VASS ANNOUNCES INAUGURAL EXHIBITION**

**MARK DUTCHER: TIME MACHINE**  
**JANUARY 30–MARCH 5, 2016**

**OPENING EVENTS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2016**  
**FIRST LOOK PREVIEW: 5-7 PM RSVP REQUIRED**  
**PUBLIC OPENING: 7-9 PM**

**JASON VASS**  
**1452 E. SIXTH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CA 90021**



LOS ANGELES — Jason Vass, a new contemporary art gallery located Downtown Los Angeles at E. Sixth Street and S. Santa Fe Ave, will open on January 30, 2016 with an inaugural solo exhibition of works by Los Angeles-based artist Mark Dutcher. The artist's first solo exhibition in Los Angeles in over two years, *Time Machine* will present evocative, process-driven abstract paintings and sculptural objects. Inspired by memory, loss and the recall of past impressions, Dutcher approaches painting as a commemorative gesture.

# JASON VASS

Encouraged by the physical immediacy of painting and by its mnemonic capacity to invoke nostalgia, Dutcher began the *Time Machine* series in 2012 with a desire to capture and revisit enduring past impressions. The series began with an attempt to represent a pivotal moment in his development as an artist, when, in 1983, viewing an abstract painting by Susan Rothenberg at LACMA he experienced a profound shift and consolidation of purpose. Dutcher wanted to return to that specific moment in time, to capture the feeling of that day through an intuitive approach to abstraction. He went on to create nine additional paintings in the series, each in search of the conversion and representation of a fleeting memory. By revisiting these impressions, Dutcher literally recreates a personal history through emotive recall, visually incorporating fragments of text, (sometimes song lyrics or friends and lovers' names specific to the time), painterly gestures, and physical remnants of time spent in the studio to convey sensorial memories. Dutcher's tributes to the past are both celebratory and melancholic, as each commemoration inevitably carries its weight in loss.

Working in oils and graphite, Dutcher creates raw records of lived painting. They begin with a history of pencil traces, a blueprint of shadows and layers, and are then built up with additions of paint, gesture and text. He embraces imperfection, and the errant traces of an organic studio process, drawing out, rather than concealing, the presence of the artist's hand in the finished paintings. Visceral and emotive, his works are dynamic records of time that embody a poetic awareness of temporal instability. Influenced by artists as diverse as Alexander Rodchenko, Jasper Johns, and Richard Diebenkorn, Dutcher is fascinated by the impossibility of the utopian moment, the persistence of representational fallacies, and the implicit impermanence and collapse in all making - especially the ruins implied by monuments.

The exhibition will feature the complete *Time Machine* series of ten paintings, shown together for the first time, alongside a painting from the artist's *Hart Crane* series based on poems by the American Modernist poet. Also featured in the show will be six works on paper from the *Time Machine* series and a selection from the artist's *Optimist Benches* series, minimal sculptural objects that function as meditative physical interruptions and resting places from which to contemplate the *Time Machine* paintings. Exhibition design by Commonwealth Projects.

In conjunction with the exhibition on Saturday, February 20, 2016 at 2pm, writer Maw Shein Win will read a series of new poems based on Mark Dutcher's *Time Machine* paintings as well as selections from "Score," a manuscript-in-progress of poems by Win inspired by film. Artist and poet Eve Wood will read a poem written in response to Dutcher's painting *The Poet and The Sailor*, in homage to the writer Hart Crane. Wood will also read from her newest collection, *Diane Arbus Goes Shopping* (a poetry cycle written in the voices of contemporary artists).

## **EVENTS AT THE GALLERY**

Saturday, January 30, 2016

Mark Dutcher: *Time Machine* first look preview from 5-7pm

RSVP to [jessica@lynwinter.com](mailto:jessica@lynwinter.com)

Mark Dutcher: *Time Machine* public opening from 7-9pm

No RSVP required

# JASON VASS

Saturday, February 20, 2016

*Poems for Time Machines and Hart Crane* with guests Maw Shein Win and Eve Wood at 2pm

RSVP to [jessica@lynwinter.com](mailto:jessica@lynwinter.com)

## **ABOUT MARK DUTCHER**

Mark Dutcher's work is engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the tenets of abstract painting and allegories of the contemporary world. He has been exhibiting his work in Southern California since the early 1990s and has had solo exhibitions at the Huntington Beach Art Center, Santa Monica Museum of Art, and Coagula Curatorial. Dutcher's work has been in numerous group shows, including the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art, Torrance Art Museum, and the LA Weekly Annual and "Fox Building 103," an installation organized by the Hammer Museum at Fox Studios. More info at [markdutcher.com](http://markdutcher.com)

## **ABOUT JASON VASS**

Situated in the burgeoning arts district neighborhood of Downtown Los Angeles in a 2,700 square foot, space designed to accommodate diverse exhibitions and related programs, the gallery aims to create an exhibition platform that offers a historical perspective through the lens of contemporary artists. The gallery is committed to cultivating emerging talent and supporting established artists from around the world. Exhibiting artists include: Luke Austin, Deborah Brown, Dan Callis, Mark Dutcher, Elena Khudiakova, Cynthia MacAdams, Roman Pyotkovka and Douglas Tausik. The gallery manages the estates of Muriel Castanis and Gene Vass.

Gallery founder Jason Vass is the son of Gene Vass, the youngest member of NYC's Cedar Tavern abstract expressionist group. His mother, Joan Vass, was a fashion designer and curator at MOMA where he spent much of his youth. His extraordinary parents influenced his eye and his passion for art. In the 1980's Vass was managing partner at contemporary art gallery Patrick Fox in NYC. After moving from New York to Los Angeles, Vass opened his first gallery on Santa Monica's Montana Avenue in 1992 where he developed a reputation as a well-known and internationally respected dealer of posters, prints and limited-edition museum quality fine art lithographs. He has since owned galleries in Santa Monica and Santa Fe. More info at [jasonvass.com](http://jasonvass.com)

Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 6pm.

IMAGE CREDITS: (Left) Mark Dutcher, *Time Machine (New Dawn Fades)*, 2013-15. Oil, pencil on canvas with artist made frame, 89<sup>1/2</sup> × 54 <sup>3/4</sup> in. (right) Mark Dutcher, *Time Machine (Noah)*, 2015 Oil, pencil on canvas with artist made frame, 89<sup>1/2</sup> × 54<sup>1/4</sup> in.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND MEDIA INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT:**

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