

For Immediate Release

"Paintings for Squares" arrive at the Ottawa School of Art Gallery Orléans

Orléans, ON (May 20, 2010)

Ottawa-Gatineau based artist, Benjamin Rodger, exhibits a new series of works, 'Paintings for Squares' at the Ottawa School of Art's Orleans campus gallery in the Shenkman Arts Centre, from Thursday June 3 to June 26 (vernissage and artist talk will be held the evening of June 3 from 6pm to 8pm).

Rodger completed his Master of Fine Arts at the "École nationale supérieure d'art de la Villa Arson" in Nice, France, and acted as an official representative of Canada at the Francophonie Games held in Beirut, Lebanon (October 2009). His work has also been exhibited throughout Europe and Canada.



Titled (Etienne)
 Acrylic and oil on canvas, 72 inches X 72 inches, 2010

This latest series of work by Rodger finds itself at an impasse between traditional portrait painting design and geometric abstraction, with nods towards various other styles and art movements. "Paintings for Squares" is part of a continuing investigation of painting itself, from both historical and aesthetic points of view.

Initially inspired by the use of repetitive squares in contemporary design and in the "hard-edge" painting of the '60s, as well as by figurative poster art from the same period, these canvases intertwine different painting styles, materials and techniques. They are accompanied by an installation of appropriated textiles having the same concerns about painting.

The title "Paintings for Squares" alludes to the squares which are the departure point of this new series as well as to the outdated term "square". It could also be interpreted as the artists' tongue in cheek nod to the antiquated portraiture painting styles of the past, but as suggested by all of Rodger's work, there is more to these pieces than meets the eye.

Painting for squares? Or Paintings for Squares? Or paintings with squares?

'Paintings for Squares' will be on display at the OSA's Orleans Campus Gallery located at 245 Centrum Blvd. in the Shenkman Arts Centre until June 26, 2010. Admission to the OSA's gallery spaces is always free and all are welcome. For more information about the Ottawa School of Art, please visit www.artottawa.ca.

For high quality images or to schedule an interview with the artist, please contact Daniel Kaunisiyiita (Gallery Coordinator) by phone at 613.580.2765 or by email at osao.gallery@artottawa.ca.

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