

RAVI JACKSON

ICE ON SOUL

SEPTEMBER 9 – OCTOBER 7, 2017

Opening reception: Saturday, September 9th, 5-7pm

Richard Telles Fine Art presents Ravi Jackson's first solo exhibition with the gallery, *Ice on Soul*. Jackson's mixed-media paintings contemplate the politics of expression. Through subtle material manipulations, Jackson considers how a body or an object experiences subjection and empowerment. The issue of race relations and its impact on the American psyche moves across Jackson's paintings like paint itself, yet they refrain from the literal or didactic. References include wallpaper and textile designs, Kurt Russell, Eldridge Cleaver, Bart Simpson t-shirts, and Donatello's bronze sculpture of David, to name a few. The works are the result of an intuitive process in which painterly color studies, computer printouts, and sculptural objects accumulate on wooden panels. Collaged newspaper clippings, blog excerpts, shopping lists, and film stills emerge from underneath vibrant patterns composed of loose brushstrokes. Pieces of roughly cut fabric are often stretched or draped across parts of the panels like loincloths or bathing suits. Various knobs, pieces of turned wood, and small shelves protrude from the paintings like phantom phalluses. Wearing clothing, the wall works become readable as vulnerable bodies.

This amalgamation of tactile objects and imagery reveals the beauty and discomfort of relationships in flux. It is in the space of Jackson's paintings, whose references are both specific and undetermined, that we may bear the weight of the past and let our conclusions arrive without prescription. After all, how else will we allow for new ways of being together?

Ravi Jackson lives and works in Los Angeles. He recently completed his MFA at the University of California, Los Angeles. He also holds a BFA from Hunter College, New York and a BA from Oberlin College, Ohio. Group exhibitions include *Givens*, AALA, Los Angeles; *Paper Paper*, Ditch Projects, Springfield, Oregon; Green Gallery, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; *Z-ing*, Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles; and *Topcoat*, The Pit, Los Angeles.