

# PETER BLAKE GALLERY

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## EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS BY ALEX COUWENBERG and DONNIE MOLLS

The Peter Blake Gallery is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by artists Donnie Molls and Alex Couwenberg from June 4 through June 25, 2009.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, June 4 from 6 – 9 PM.

**Alex Couwenberg** creates abstract compositions that incorporate sensibilities of mid-20th century modernism along with a taut interplay of color, shape and texture that is entirely contemporary. Couwenberg says that his mentor, abstract painter Karl Benjamin, largely influenced his painting process and style. Heavily layered through a series of additive and reductive processes, Couwenberg's compositions create an illusion of windows through which the viewer can discover new shapes and textures.

George Melrod of **art ltd** magazine recently wrote: "Couwenberg is a gleaner of shapes, savoring their implicit allusions and relationships, and he uses his canvasses as Petrie dishes, letting his forms interact with each other like microorganisms."

His paintings have recently been included in the permanent collections of the Laguna Art Museum and the Claremont Museum of Art. Couwenberg also received the prestigious Joan Mitchell Foundation Award for his achievements in painting. This exhibition marks the artist's third solo show with Peter Blake Gallery.

**Donnie Molls'** paintings focus on the subtle effects of time and elements on buildings and other objects that often appear past their prime or abandoned altogether. Yet, Moll's somewhat ambivalent presentation of weathered buildings, for example, lets viewers interpret whether they are still shelters or relics of a bygone time.

Molls takes great care in guiding the viewer towards the most dramatic conclusions via the use of light, color and perspective. Starting with a photo negative that he exposes onto a board that has been coated with emulsion, Molls will manipulate subjects to suit his narrative. The end result maybe an image of a house situated under a dome of surreal green light. At times there might also be cars in the driveway and a desolate road leading up to the structure. A few palm trees may sway the breeze—still there will be no sign of life. That, the viewer must provide.

To preview the exhibition in its entirety and read the artists' biographies and statements, please go to **[www.peterblakegallery.com](http://www.peterblakegallery.com)**.

For further information and/or high-resolution images, please contact the gallery.

## ABOUT THE GALLERY

The Peter Blake Gallery first opened in 1993 following a philosophy that an art gallery should be more than an arts related retail space. Rather, a gallery should be an exhibition space that showcases the talent of local as well as national and international artists, bringing together the best of every aspect of the art world. Sixteen years later, the gallery continues to be a part of the Laguna Beach arts community by exhibiting local and emerging artists along side some of the most sought-after artists in the nation.

LEARN MORE AT [PETERBLAKEGALLERY.COM](http://PETERBLAKEGALLERY.COM)