

For immediate release and listing:

Robert Hardgrave
Compounded
May 17–June 14, 2008
Opening reception, Gallery II: Saturday, May 17, 6–9 PM

Joshua Liner Gallery is pleased to present *Compounded*, an exhibition of new work by the Seattle-based artist Robert Hardgrave. This is Hardgrave's debut exhibition in New York and his first solo show with the gallery.

In twenty-three works, ranging from large acrylic-on-canvas paintings to small ink-on-paper drawings, Hardgrave depicts phantasmagoric figures existing in painterly environments. Described by the artist as "countenances of spirits," these images are built up from basic, expressive mark-making and complex shapes. Curved and scalloped lines are repeated and multiplied in arch-like groupings, an additive process that creates dynamic, flowing imagery.

Calligraphic in nature, Hardgrave's approach to mark-making takes inspiration from the miniature-painting traditions of the Near- and Far East. Yet he succeeds in creating a truly distinct, organic, and personal vocabulary of textures and forms.

Some works incorporate collage, using various types of rice paper and printed media, further worked with ink and acrylics. The "compound" qualities of these works suggest that spirit "portraits" may have more in common with abstract expressionism than traditional figuration. According to the artist, all works in the exhibition convey ideas about reincarnation and the possibility of life after death, a theme deeply informed by Hardgrave's own experience as an organ transplant survivor.

Robert Hardgrave has exhibited widely on the West Coast, including in Seattle at Center on Contemporary Art (COCA) and Lawrimore Project; Compound Gallery, Portland; Receiver Gallery, San Francisco; San Jose Museum of Art; Robert Berman Gallery and Blk/Mrkt Gallery, Los Angeles; as well as Andenken Gallery, Denver; Youngblood Gallery, Atlanta; Camp Fig Gallery, Austin; and internationally at Feinkunst Krueger, Hamburg, Germany, and the 2005 Basefield Exhibition, Melbourne, Australia. He lives and works in Seattle, Washington.

Co-founder of Lineage Gallery in Philadelphia, Joshua Liner opened Joshua Liner Gallery in New York City's Chelsea gallery district in April 2008 with the inaugural group exhibition *Locked & Loaded*. Gallery artists include Jeremy Fish, Blaine Fontana, Robert Hardgrave, Josh Keyes, Koralie, Kris Kuksi, Pat Rocha, Greg Simkins, and Damon Soule.

Also on view, in Gallery I: Koralie, *Après la Pluie (After the Rain)*, May 17–June 14.

For more information, please visit www.joshualinergallery.com, or contact Tim Strazza at 212.244.7415 or tim@joshualinergallery.com.



Robert Hardgrave
Imperative
Acrylic on canvas
56 x 36 inches