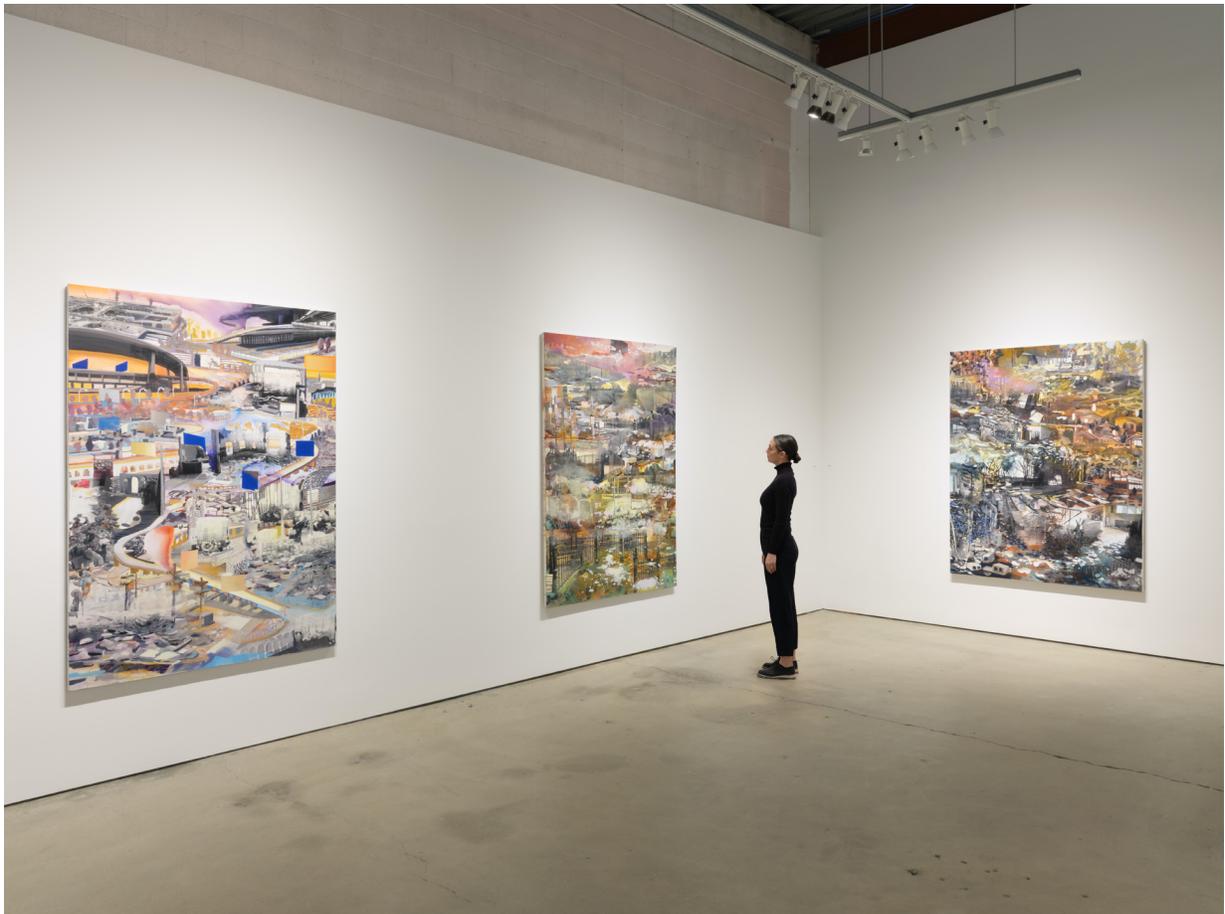


EQUINOX GALLERY
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**NEW WORKS
BY ETIENNE ZACK**

An exhibition of new works by the artist will take place in May 2021.
For more information please contact the gallery at (604) 736 – 2405 or
info@equinoxgallery.com



Installation View, Equinox Gallery, 2021.

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ABOUT

"I think that for many people there is a consciousness or awareness of the whole world at all times, this feeling is certainly with me when I paint. In these paintings I collapsed many realities together on the same surface. Both photography (digital image files that are printed and gel transferred on the canvas) and acrylic paint exist simultaneously on the same canvas. The two realities of photography and painting sometimes seamlessly transition from one another and sometimes distinctively hold their identity almost repelling each other on the canvas. In parts the canvas try to reconcile several modes of looking at the world and to render some sense of a uniformity while viewing what looks like a fractured experience.

I took notes on two books (Emile Zola's "L'oeuvre" and Jean-Joseph Goux's "Art and Monday") that highlight notions of value and art in late 19th century (modernism...). I've been thinking for a long time about currency, specifically (but not only) currency and art. 19th century was a time infused with economic theories, the stock market and finance, speculation was rampant, advertising and newspapers had great power over opinions and facts; there was trading and investment going on all over the world, and extreme volatility of values and currencies. Some of the new painters of time revealed the process involved in the production of a painting, but other artists such as Manet, Cézanne, Renoir to name a few, showed emotions. This release of emotion by these modernist painters was outside of the rules of the academy and therefore could be 'sold' or promoted as different, suggesting a rupture in history and the economy - raw emotions allowed the currency of the painting to float and so subjectivity became a new value. The artists that emerged during this time often came from similar financial circumstances: from finance, banking and land and property ownership. In Goux and Zola, the transfer of subjective aesthetics and floating values through capital is an important aspect of what we call modernism. I think the legacy of this period can be seen in today's society, only dressed in a new technological suit.

The composition (or scenes) in the paintings are made from walking in the city and taking visual notes (sometimes taking photographs too). I layer all these scenes into a painting composition. Very much like taking a walk in the city, I paint the composition as if I was 'there' depicting the city as I remember it, painting it as if I'm walking forward looking around. Just like the book paintings, I was imagining myself in these architectures walking around them looking at the light, details, texture etc."

-Etienne Zack 2020

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ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Etienne Zack is one of today's artists who are truly pushing the envelope in terms of painting concept; his process is entirely based on reading and taking notes – no visual source material is used. His process of making paintings relates to notions concerning the various ways history itself is manipulated and “worked out”. Zack's work often focuses on the context in which artworks are produced and exhibited, and the physical and conceptual tools that go into creating them: the studio, art gallery, painter's materials, and historical and theoretical reference works. Both poetic and playful, Zack's painting prompts us to re-examine the everyday world around us.

Born in Montreal in 1976, Zack studied at Concordia University and Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design. He has been awarded the prestigious RBC Canadian Painting Prize, and in 2008 he received the Prix Pierre-Ayot, awarded by the City of Montreal. In addition to exhibiting widely internationally, a solo mid-career retrospective with monograph was held at the Montreal Museum of Contemporary Art in 2010. A second monograph was published on the occasion of his solo exhibition at the Esker Foundation in Calgary.

Etienne Zack lives and works between Point Roberts and Vancouver.



Etienne Zack in his studio, 2020.