

R E Y N O L D S G A L L E R Y

For Immediate Release

JAMES BUSBY

***Talking In Code:
New Paintings and Drawings***

April 10 – May 30, 2015

Opening Reception for the Artist
Friday, April 10
7 – 9 pm



Bottled Up Tight, 2015
Gesso, graphite, oil & acrylic on panel, 39 x 46"

Reynolds Gallery is pleased to announce the opening of an exhibition of paintings by James Busby entitled *Talking in Code: New Paintings and Drawings*. The exhibition opens with a reception for the artist on Friday, April 10 and continues through May 30, 2015. This exhibition is Busby's third solo show at Reynolds Gallery.

Busby's paintings are carefully crafted and labor intensive minimalist compositions. He adds multiple layers of gesso over birch plywood panels while sanding and polishing each layer. The resulting structure is object-like in its depth and presence. On many of the panels, Busby adds textures – either from cross-hatching the gesso or adding burlap to the surface while the gesso dries (the burlap is later removed so only its imprint remains). Over this surface, he adds oil and acrylic paints and graphite, all the while burnishing out and removing certain marks. The interactions of his materials dictate the development of the painting, so the artist's process is both reactive and intuitive. As much as Busby's method is additive through layering, it is also reductive and highly edited so that only the most important marks remain in the finished painting. The process of erasing marks adds to the history of the paintings – perhaps a hint of color is left behind, or the scratches left by sanding become part of the work.

Busby's newest paintings incorporate more circles and curved forms than much of his earlier works in which grids and sharp angles directed the composition. Further, the works in the show deliberately play with the illusion of dimension – in sections where the graphite is highly reflective, a viewer is able to see himself in the work and the space around the painting is visible. Yet, the viewer is not reflected in the white gesso sections, and thus the sense of space and illusion shifts continuously between different types of media. Busby intentionally includes this sort of variance, so that there are "different speeds of looking" at play (2014). Overall, the paintings included in *Talking in Code* are alluringly complex yet reductively minimal musings on the interactions of form and line.

Busby received his MFA and BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2000 and 2003, respectively. He has held solo shows at Kravets|Wehby Gallery and Stefan Stux, New York and Randall Scott Projects, Baltimore. His work has been included in group shows at Chelsea Art Museum, New York, NY; Dickinson Gallery, London; Loyal Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden; Galerie Jean-Luc, Paris; South Carolina State Museum and the 701 Center for Contemporary Art, both, Columbia, SC; and 1708 Gallery and the University of Richmond Museum, both, Richmond, VA. He has taught drawing and printmaking at the University of South Carolina since 2004. His paintings are in significant collections including Hubert Neumann Collection, New York, NY; Progressive Auto Insurance, New York; and Markel Corporation, Richmond, VA.

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