

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Charlie James Gallery is delighted to present the exhibition:



**KEITH ROCKA KNITTEL – MORE LOS ANGELES POEMS
DECEMBER 10 – 30, 2016**

**ARTIST'S RECEPTION SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10th 2016 FROM
6-9PM**

Charlie James Gallery is pleased to announce the solo exhibition *More Los Angeles Poems* by **Keith Rocka Knittel**, featuring new paintings, drawings, and sculpture by the L.A. based artist. The show will be on view December 10 through December 30, 2016, with an opening reception and performances on Saturday, December 10, from 6-9pm.

Five interconnected series of works fluidly presented form an environment in which material and content signify the inevitability of change. Merging dialects overlap in a syntax of smog and sun-burnt strip-malls, freeways built on fault lines, and translucent run off discoloring the sea. Drawings in dry erase marker on marker board are traced in black urethane resin, resembling treacle, transient thought stabilized. 16" x 22" paintings mounted in box frames

constructed from a laminate named "Jungle Eyes," a recurring motif in Knittel's work, evoke the hand-painted signage of snacks and car parts on L.A.'s ubiquitous faded stucco store-fronts. A plywood and laminate wall-mounted shelf props up watercolor still life paintings of the sidewalks and gutters in his studio's MacArthur Park neighborhood. Underlying all, gestural portraits of Knittel's studio cat act as intimate sign language spanning the artist's studio process.

Downstairs in the gallery, fragile yet hulking 55" x 66" drawings on white seamless paper proclaim discombobulated slogans. For one night, at the opening reception on December 10, the underground space will be activated by performances and work by invited peers in a kind-of basement party for disgruntled, anxious, and sincere individuals.

Keith Rocka Knittel holds an MFA from CalArts. His work has been exhibited in contemporary art spaces such as the Hammer Museum, Human Resources LA, and Otras Obras. His curatorial projects include Yard Pedro (Instagram: @yardpedro) and Harborview & Pole. Knittel's Everything Must Go! radio show on KCHUNG is now in its fourth year on the air. Knittel lives and works in San Pedro, California where he attempts to break down the linear preconceptions of time and space.