

LUKE BUTLER  
IN COLOR AND BLACK AND WHITE



**CJG** CHARLIE JAMES GALLERY  
CHINATOWN, LOS ANGELES

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# LUKE BUTLER

## IN COLOR AND BLACK AND WHITE

Charlie James Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition by Bay Area artist Luke Butler on view from May 31 to July 19. Luke will be showing paintings from two distinct bodies of work for his first showing with the gallery.

In Luke's series aptly titled "The End", Luke paints THE END as a figure in a landscape. Removed from its narrative role, it is both familiar and strange. As a static image, it seems contradictory, absurd, and poignant - an anti-picture. Its message strays, becoming evocative rather than declarative, no longer an exit, but a memento mori.

If THE END turns the actual landscape legendary and evanescent, Luke's other works draw humanity out of iconic television figures. Using imagery from the 1970s, these works emphasize vulnerability, sorrow, ambiguity - things more commonly seen outside the tidy world of televised narrative. In paint, on canvas, frozen in mid-gesture, men of action become figures of pathos. They have somewhat the appearance of religious painting. Television was an indelible and impactful presence in Luke's young life. Insinuating its legendary figures into a larger picture of mythology is one way for him to see beyond its frame.

Shown together, these two series complement each other, and broaden Luke's continuing investigations into the peculiar reality of popular culture. Inherently disposable, it is all but inseparable from our lives, and is a genuine point of connection with other people. Luke's work borrows its universal language and bends it toward subjectivity- to anxiety, masculinity, mortality, and a lifelong fascination with the figures that tell the stories.

Luke Butler (b. 1971) received his MFA from CCA in 2008. He has held solo exhibitions in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and has been included in numerous group shows, most notably at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego and the 2010 California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art. His work is part of numerous collections, including the Norton Museum, West Palm Beach. Butler currently lives and works in San Francisco, CA.

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The End IX, Acrylic on canvas, 38 x 54 inches , 2012

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The End XIII, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 30 inches, 2013

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The End XIX, Acrylic on canvas, 38 x 54 inches, 2014

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The End XVI, Acrylic on canvas, 38 x 54 inches, 2013

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The End XVII, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 30 inches, 2014



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The End XVIII, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 30 inches, 2014

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Scene I, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 30 inches, 2014

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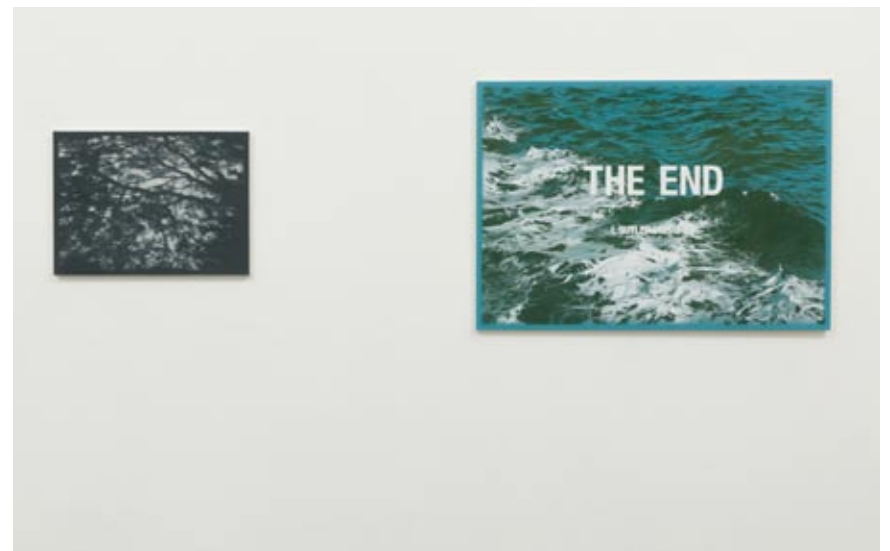


Scene II, Acrylic on canvas, 38 x 54 inches, 2014

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Captain Crew IX, Acrylic on canvas, 23 x 32 inches, 2014

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Captain XXXIV, Acrylic on canvas, 20 x 24 inches, 2013



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Detectives, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 29 inches, 2013

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Landing Party IV, Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 28 inches, 2011

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### Luke Butler

Represented by Jessica Silverman Gallery,  
San Francisco  
www.jessicasilvermangallery.com

Born: 1971, San Francisco, CA

### Education:

2008 MFA, California College of the Arts,  
San Francisco, CA

1993 BFA, Cooper Union School of Art, NYC

### Solo Exhibitions:

2014 "In Color And Black And White", Charlie  
James Gallery, Los Angeles, CA

2012 "Alas", Jessica Silverman Gallery, San  
Francisco, CA

2010 "DROP SHADOW", Kantor Gallery, Los Angeles  
CA

2009 "CAPTAIN!", Jessica Silverman Gallery, San  
Francisco, CA

2008 "INVASION!", {2nd floor projects}, San  
Francisco, CA

### Selected Group Exhibitions:

2013 "Approximately Infinite Universe", Museum of  
Contemporary Art San Diego, La Jolla, CA  
"Sea Stories Between the Tides", Highlight  
Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2012 "Mission Afterviews", Victoria Theater, San  
Francisco, CA

- 2011 "Mise-en-Scene", Elizabeth Leach Gallery,  
Portland, OR  
"B-B-B-BAD", Anna Kustera Gallery, NYC
- 2010 "Now What?", Norton Museum of Art, West Palm  
Beach, FL  
"2010 California Biennial", Orange County  
Museum of Art, Newport Beach, CA  
"Front and Center", Headlands Center for the  
Arts, Sausalito, CA
- 2009 "Summer Reading", Invisible Exports, New  
York, NY  
"Curated By-Vienna 2009- Beginnings,  
Middles, and Ends", Galerie Georg Kargl,  
Vienna, Austria  
"Sketchbook Show", Orange Alley Projects,  
San Francisco, CA
- 2008 "Capital Jewelers", Dust Gallery, Las Vegas,  
NV
- 2007 "Walls of Glory", Eagle Tavern, San  
Francisco, CA  
"The Notebook Show", CCA PLAYSPACE Gallery,  
San Francisco, CA  
"The World is Yours", Oliver Kamm 5BE  
Gallery, NYC
- 2006 "Ides of March", ABCNoRio, NYC
- 2005 "September Show", Center Gallery, Fordham  
University at Lincoln Center, NYC
- 2000 "\$20 Drawing Show", The Luggage Store  
Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 1996 "Central Industrial Supply Hardware Show",  
Central Industrial Supply Hardware Store,  
NYC  
"Crest Hardware Show", Crest Hardware Store,  
Brooklyn, NY
- 1994 "Guys and Dolls", Institute For Contemporary

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Art, Boston, MA

**Selected Publications:**

SHIFTER 18: INTENTION, conversation between  
Bhanu Kapil and Luke Butler, page 7; edited  
by Sreshta Rit Premnath and Matthew Metzger,  
Shifter Magazine, New York, 2012

GRAPHITE Interdisciplinary Journal of the Arts,  
Issue # 2, illustrations, pages 90, 91;  
edited by Christine Haroutounian and Leela  
Subramaniam, Hammer Museum and the Hammer  
Student Association of UCLA, Los Angeles,  
2011

2010 California Biennial, catalogue, interview  
with Stacie Martinez, pages 32-35; edited by  
Karen Jacobson, the Orange County Museum of  
Art, Newport Beach/ DelMonico Books, New  
York, 2011