

Related Events:

All events are free and open to the public.

Exhibition Reception:

Sunday, February 12, 3 pm

Conversation with the Artist:

Saturday, February 19, 3 pm

About the Artist:

Bradley Biancardi received a MFA from the University of Washington and a BFA from Indiana University, Bloomington. He has been an instructor at the Hyde Park Art Center since 2009. Biancardi is currently teaching classes in beginning level drawing and oil painting, large format painting, and a new course focusing only on heads, hands and feet. His paintings and installations have been exhibited at artist-run spaces in Chicago, Seattle, and Lexington (KY), and internationally, at the WhyNot Place in New Delhi, India. Biancardi currently lives and works in Chicago. He has an upcoming show at Roots and Culture (Chicago).

Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**

5020 South Cornell Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60615 773.324.5520 www.hydeparkart.org

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Hyde Park**ARTCENTER**

Cleve Carney Gallery

February 5 - April 1, 2012

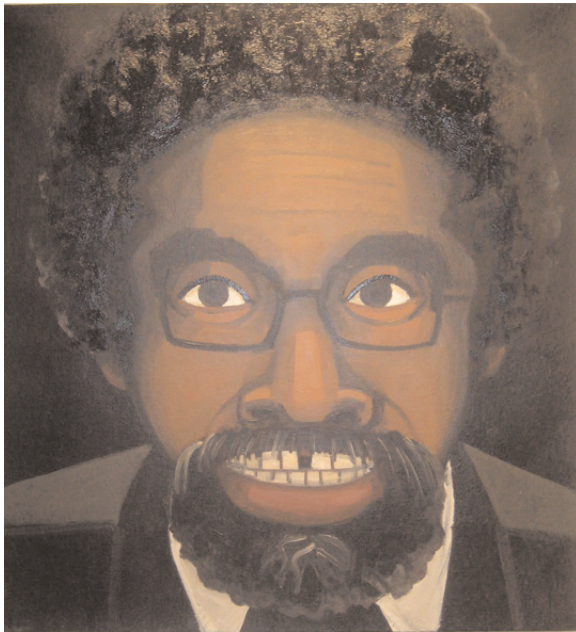
Bradley Biancardi

Formless and Devotional



Bradley Biancardi, *Social Unrest*, 2011, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 108 x 92 inches

Formless and Devotional presents a moment of transition in emerging artist Bradley Biancardi's career. Departing from the geometric, architectural forms of his past oil paintings, he now turns to the body, the hand, tools, and religious iconography. With a direct nod to the style of Max Beckman and Pablo Picasso, Biancardi's new work challenges traditional notions of modernism (or the interest in creating abstract forms rather than realistic representations) by re-examining the importance of the figure in contemporary art.



Bradley Biancardi, *Dr. Cornell West*, 2010, Oil on Canvas, 31 x 30 inches

The painting *Dr. Cornell West* is the only work in the exhibition that directly depicts a real person. Biancardi painted the intellectual and civil rights activist, West, from memory while listening to his book on tape, *Democracy Matters*, which calls for a revitalization of American democracy in order to strengthen the US in the fight against imperialist corruption on

the increase worldwide. The artist considers West one of his personal idols. This painting pre-dates the other paintings in the show and could be considered a jumping-off point that motivated Biancardi to paint other interpretations of idols (*Little Idol #1 - #6*) and address social justice (*Social Unrest*) in the recent works.

The exhibition includes the artist's experimentations with scale, ranging from 14 inches to 10 feet in height, and subject matter that addresses the human form in a spiritual context.

According to Biancardi, "The paintings incorporate symmetry because this alludes to the human body, spiritual iconography and directness. The paintings are expressions of love, and the process exists in a place that is just as fragile."

Whether Biancardi explores this 'fragile love' through the religious importance of the tree as a symbol that traverses religions, or through the emotional importance of an extended hand, he continues to be interested in the process of creating paintings that allude narrative and raise more questions than provide steadfast answers on faith.



Bradley Biancardi, *Every Tree Ever*, 2011, Acrylic on mounted paper, 75 x 41 inches

Allison Peters Quinn - Director of Exhibitions
Nikki Yagoda - Exhibitions Assistant