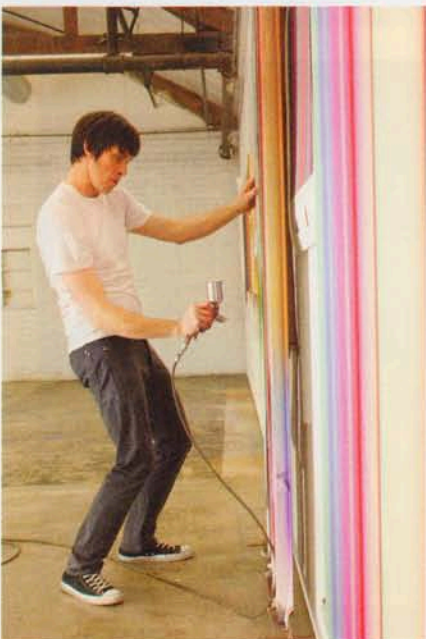


OUTSIDE THE LINES

Artist Tim Bavington Opens Up a New Space and a New Style

by AMY SCHMIDT

photography by TOMAS MUSCIONICO



It's early February and with just nine weeks to go before the opening of his next exhibition at the Mark Moore Gallery in LA, artist Tim Bavington has a supply problem.

In the last week, he's been asked to put together a public installation for the PULSE Contemporary Art Fair in New York in March, as well as participate in two group shows, both on short notice and both opening this spring, in San Diego and Seoul, Korea. That's up to 20 paintings in the next three months.

"If you go too long with a supply problem, you end up with a demand problem. But we haven't missed a deadline yet, have we, Joan?" Bavington calls out to his studio assistant, who's busy answering e-mails inside his spacious new studio in Downtown Las Vegas.

And to think it was only 10 years ago that

Bavington was offered his first solo show at Mark Moore, just two months after graduating from UNLV's MFA program under the tutelage of author and art critic Dave Hickey.

Since then, he's enjoyed solo and group exhibitions around the world, and his paintings have been included in the public collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, and most recently, the Denver Art Museum.

He also received a rave review ("optically ravishing") from Ken Johnson of *The New York Times* for his exhibition last fall at the Jack Shainman Gallery in New York, which featured a "new direction" for Bavington that he refers to "as more spatial, atmospheric and less obviously structured; influenced by

- ATLANTA
- DALLAS
- DETROIT
- HOUSTON
- LAS VEGAS
- LOS ANGELES
- MIAMI
- ORANGE CO
- PHOENIX
- SAN DIEGO
- SAN FRANCISCO

“When I got out of college, I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great if I had a show or if someone bought one of my works for a 1,000 bucks?’”



painters such as Mark Rothko, Morris Louis and Gerhard Richter.”

“[The new paintings] begin with a bit of a structure,” he says, “but then I just start riffing on them in an abstract way.”

Bavington’s new direction came out of a summer of listening to a lot of psychedelic music, including such acts as Cream and the Amorphous Androgynous. (See an example of his new work in the high-limit lounge at Aria Resort & Casino inside CityCenter).

Aptly titled *Decade*, the new exhibition opens April 24 at Mark Moore, and will feature paintings in the new style, as well as “classic” stripe works by Bavington inspired by music from Neil Young, Paul Weller, The Allman Brothers Band, Guns N’ Roses and Wolfmother, to name a few.

“When I got out of college, I thought wouldn’t it be great if I had a show or if someone bought one of my works for a 1,000 bucks,” Bavington recalls. “The expectations out of school are so low. But I’ve had a good run. Another 10 would be nice.”

