

Alex Couwenberg

ARTIST STATEMENT

My paintings are a product of my obsession over process. Applying paint to a surface and the experiences that occur while creating an image are the purest form of motivation. The subject matter in my work comes from a deep appreciation of the aesthetic associated with Southern California culture. Born and raised in Los Angeles and Orange County, I was exposed to many of the visual elements that create the So Cal terrain, for example, the paint, pin striping, and finish associated with hot rod and custom car culture. Mid-century design, furniture, and architecture, surf and skateboard culture, color and graphics, geometric and hard-edge abstraction, and the love of craft and technique all fuel the work.

The paintings themselves diagram the process of paint application and the interpretation of how these influences manifest themselves in the form of shape, color, texture, and space. Each painting becomes an experience of constantly juxtaposing elements and forms within a composition attempting to arrive at a relationship between balance, tension, and harmony. The ideas of geometry and the placement of forms within a picture plane are crucial in the picture making process and expose themselves in the form of hard-edged compositions that suggest a complete and precise control of both medium and image.