

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Andy Kolar**  
***Head in the Clouds/Left Hanging***

**22 May – 20 August 2021**  
**Opening Reception: Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2:00-7:00pm**  
**(social distancing and masks required)**

Walter Maciel Gallery is pleased to present *Head in the Clouds/ Left Hanging* by Los Angeles artist, Andy Kolar. The exhibition consists of abstract paintings and sculpture marking Kolar's third solo show with our gallery.

In a continuation from Kolar's previous exhibitions, the new work expands on the intertwined narrative between his abstract paintings and their translations into objects. The exhibition is a reflection on the effects of the pandemic and a year lost to contemplation on what is to come as we create a path forward into an uncertain future. The hope for a better experience conflicted with the hard realization that we have been left hanging in the balance to recalibrate what we know.

The primary paintings in the exhibition contain clusters that continue to float in space but are no longer banded together to form a singular group. Imbued with a sense of independence, the forms exist with the implication of moving around in space or swaying in the wind like crane slings waiting to be used on a construction site. The backgrounds have moved towards the real world with the suggestion of the sky and clouds in a departure from their previous solid flat color of non-descript space.

In addition there is one painting included in the show that continues to hold on to its banded nature and ambiguity like those of previous paintings while two smaller works present an abstract representation of the merging spectrum of space where abstraction and figuration meet. The paintings create a visual bridge between the sculptures included in the exhibition which act as hypothetical end points for where the elements will eventually be placed. Each work has its own slightly different end result in how the object becomes placed within its new environment. Perhaps the most unique piece in the show is a simple wooden toolbox which does not hold any tools but instead is filled with paint. These works continue to give way to humorous interactions but also allude to a more serious venture of questioning the referential and implicative potential contained within.

Kolar received his MFA in Drawing and Painting at California State University, Long Beach in 2007. He has been included in numerous group exhibitions in Southern California including the shows, *6018 Wilshire* at Edward Cella Gallery, *Painting Architecture* at the Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts, University of California, Riverside, *Quiet Storm* at Denk Gallery, *Wall Painting 2013 and FORMS OF ABSTRACTION* at the Irvine Fine Arts Center and *De Stil* at Andrew Shire Gallery. In 2010 Kolar was one of 45 artists included in the California Biennial curated by Sarah Bancroft at the Orange County Museum of Art. Kolar's works are included in several private and corporate collections including the recent acquisition at Pimco Corporation in Orange County.