

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Brant Foundation Art Study Center presents

Josh Smith: *The American Dream*

May 7, 2011 – September 2011

The Brant Foundation Art Study Center is pleased to present *The American Dream*, an exhibition of new large-scale paintings and collages by New York-based artist **Josh Smith**.

Smith will transform The Brant Foundation into a temporary studio where he will spend thirty days producing new work for the forthcoming exhibition. This is an appropriate scenario for the artist, as his practice is largely visceral and spontaneous. In preparation for his show, Smith consulted **Urs Fischer**, the artist who previous exhibited at the foundation, and **Julian Schnabel**, who helped design the physical space, and has incorporated their input in his plans for the exhibition.

Josh Smith's paintings are widely known for negotiating the concept of an artist's "signature style," as evidenced in works where his own name appears repeatedly both signified and abstracted. His paintings further explore the contentious relationship between abstraction and realism, challenging aesthetic dominance and re-contextualizing the mundane. Counterbalancing his body of work between the deliberate and deliberately random, Smith confronts the notion of compositions created entirely by chance.

Equally paramount to Smith's practice are his collages, which mix ordinary found material such as newspapers with painting, silk-screen, and reproductions of his own work. Some recent collages consist entirely of printed images of his existing work. These works differ in that they play with scale and the printer's color modulation feature, experimenting with developing infinite variations of the original images. Similar to his "name paintings," the "subject" here is the critical potential of repetition and self-reference.

Born in 1976, Josh Smith is from Knoxville, Tennessee and currently lives and works in New York. Forthcoming exhibitions include *Illuminations* curated by Bice Curiger at the Venice Biennale and an exhibition at Le Printemps de Septembre, Toulouse, France, curated by Anne Pontégnie, taking place in the fall. He has had numerous solo exhibitions in the United States and abroad, most notably *Who Am I* at De Hallen Haarlem in 2009 and *Hidden Darts* at Museum Moderner Kunst in Vienna in 2008. He has also participated in several important group exhibitions, including *Uncertain States of America* at the Serpentine Gallery in London and Astrup Fearnley Museet in Oslo, *USA Today* at Saatchi Gallery, the 2007 Lyon Biennial curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist, *Book/Shelf* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, and *The Generational: Younger Than Jesus* at the New Museum in New York.

About The Brant Foundation Art Study Center

The Brant Foundation Art Study Center has a mission to promote education and appreciation of contemporary art and design, by making works available to institutions and individuals for scholarly study and examination. The Brant Foundation Art Study Center presents long-term exhibitions curated primarily from the collection. The collection is remarkable in that scores of artists are represented in

depth, including works from the earliest period of their practice through their most recent works. Currently, The Brant Foundation, Inc., established in 1996, lends works to more than a dozen exhibitions per year.

The Brant Foundation Art Study Center, is located at 941 North Street, Greenwich, Connecticut, and is open Monday through Friday by appointment only. The exhibition will remain on view through September 2011. To schedule an appointment, guests may email thebrantfoundation@gmail.com.

Listing Info:

Josh Smith: *The American Dream*

Dates: *May 7, 2011 – September 2011*

Hours: By appointment only

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