

Craig Easton: *Collapse*

24 September - 17 October 2009

Craig Easton's practice has long addressed the possibilities of abstract art. Over the years his work has developed its own processes and rules resulting in work that is both methodical and contained. For his latest show, **Easton** is reacting to past work. By his own admission he is 'pulling it apart', 'seeing how far he can push it before he loses it'. As **Easton** says *Collapse* represents a further breaking apart of my own approach to formal abstraction'.

Dr Stephen Haley has written, 'in *Easton's* works there is always a play between what is real, what is represented and what the nature of abstraction might be'. This play has often involved a sly nod to the construction of the painting itself, making reference to the stretcher, frame and/or masking tape.

In *Collapse*, **Easton** references his preliminary sketches, the earliest stage of his painting process. What starts off as loose arbitrary mark making soon becomes the catalyst for highly refined, pain-staking works.

Easton has been a finalist in the Arthur Guy Memorial Prize at Bendigo Gallery in 2007 and 2009. Other recent curated shows include *Drawing Folio* at Block Projects and *Geganstandslos*, Gesellschaft fur Kunst und Gestaltung e.V Bonn, Germany. A Masters Graduate of RMIT University, **Easton** currently lectures in the Painting Department of RMIT. His work is held in collections including National Gallery of Victoria, ArtBank, Federal Court of Australia, National Australia Bank (Australia & UK), Siemens, The Art Trust, TXU.

Born in Dunedin, New Zealand, **Easton** lives and works in Melbourne.

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