

Victoria Miro Gallery

Press Release

Udomsak Krisanamis

22 May – 23 June 2001

Thai born, New York based artist **Udomsak Krisanamis** is best known for his richly textured collaged paintings which reflect his highly personalised approach to language. Taking thousands of words from newspaper text, **Krisanamis** obliterates letters while leaving untouched the negative spaces within such letters as 9, 8, 0 and b. Rendering the text invisible, he builds up densely layered, textured, shimmering surfaces, replacing language with pure optical effect. This is **Krisanamis'** first solo London exhibition since 1997 and will include a series of ten new paintings.

When **Krisanamis** moved from Thailand to America a decade ago he taught himself English by reading the daily newspaper, crossing out all the words he knew with a pencil. As his knowledge of English improved so this disciplined and obsessive procedure would reveal a field of black from which only the odd unknown word would stand out. This created a patterned page that became the substructure for painting and collage combinations. In his later works, traditional art materials share pictorial space with tactile ready-mades, bits and pieces from coloured out newspapers, laundry receipts, cellophane, noodles and tea: glued in, enmeshed and stuck on.

Layered into mesmerizing grids that resemble stellar landscapes, satellite imagery, twinkling city-scapes and blinking digital universes, the random patterns dictated by his collaged and marked sheets reveal at the same time the base nature of his materials. When looked at close up his works flip back and forth between the worldly and otherworldly, the sublime and the everyday.

Krisanamis has been included in several important surveys of new painting including *projects 63* at the **Museum of Modern Art**, New York, *Nach-Bild* at the **Kunsthalle Basel** and *Painting at the Edge of the World* at the **Walker Art Center**, Minneapolis. His work has also been included in *Examining Pictures*, **Whitechapel Art Gallery**, London, *Peter Doig and Udomsak Krisanamis*, **Arnolfini Gallery**, Bristol and **The Fruitmarket Gallery**, Edinburgh, *Every Day*, **11th Biennale of Sydney** and *Greater New York, PS1*, New York. Udomsak Krisanamis has recently shown at **Wexner Center for the Arts**, Columbus, **Gavin Brown's enterprise**, New York and **Marc Foxx** in Santa Monica. He will be participating in **'Site-Santa Fe'** later this year.

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