

IVAN MORLEY

9 DECEMBER, 2004 - 29 JANUARY, 2005

Ivan Morley was born in 1966 in California, he lives and works in Los Angeles. He graduated from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1989 and completed a Master of Fine Arts at the Art Center College of Design in 2000.

His complex, color-saturated paintings combine high art with low culture and local craft within traditions of visual narrative and oral storytelling.

Source of inspiration for his paintings have become the dynamics and realities of life during the development of California in the 19th century.

He is painting on a variety of surfaces, including textured glass, wood panels, batik and dyed canvas. The textures and varying opacities of these surfaces contribute to the work's material diversity; we get blocky quiltlike patterns, floral motifs, and faux-naif, cartoonish illustrations on tie-dyed grounds.

His works or as he describes them "souvenirs of a fictional as well as an actual place" usually, are meant to be viewed within its contextual series referencing his anecdotes. They illustrate varying versions of a reconstructed past, suggesting that any historical interpretation is an assortment of present-tense fictions and that the re-telling of a story transforms it to the point where it bears little resemblance to the "original". For Nietzsche, history was only possible through an awareness of the *unhistorical*, "which is like the surrounding atmosphere that can alone create life". His paintings seem to be more involved with this surrounding atmosphere than literal analysis of text.

His works are more like poetic myths than history paintings. They work as fragments of lived experience, with an active rather than a nostalgic relationship to the past—"nothing to do with time passing and everything to do with it being paused".

The gallery remains open Tue – Fri, 10:30 – 20:00 and on Saturday, 12:00 – 16:00. It will be closed for the holidays from 24/12/2004 – 3/1/2005.