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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL KOLKER  
OVER & OVER

Opening Reception  
Thursday, May 26 6PM to 8PM  
Downstairs at the salon of studio601  
Gallery Hours: Mon – Sat / 10AM – 6PM



philtrum, 2011 acrylic on canvas 132 x 198 inches (detail)

[NEW YORK, May 26, 2011] Studio601 is pleased to present, PAUL KOLKER: OVER AND OVER, an exhibition of halftone acrylic paintings in brilliant color and mirrored sculptures reflecting light, or sometimes an image, towards infinity.

Kolker continues his bold experimentation with light as a medium while preserving those minimalist standards fundamental to the aesthetic purity of his work. However, in this show he dazzles the viewer with the subtleties of light trapped in glossy colored layers painted over each other on his canvases and with cascades of that more intense light reflected over and over between the mirrors in his sculptures.

Those minimalist aspects of structure and color, as in the dot grid patterns of television and computer screens and those of half tone color printing, have remained key to Kolker's art paradigm and digital culture message. Kolker professes, that because of technological advancement towards higher and higher definition (including holograms and recently improved 3D imaging), we have become increasingly oblivious to the differences between the real thing and the imaginary or virtual. Like a skin pinch test to see if the subject is real, Kolker deconstructs a photograph of the real and intentionally transforms it by fractionation into low definition grids of dots painted in elemental colors by a process which he calls 'fracolor,' (coined as an homage to Benoit Mandelbrot and his fractal geometry of shapes repeating over and over). In a mirror clad room hangs the artist's large scale painting of Mandelbrot, iterating perhaps fifty feet into an imaginary space.

On intersecting walls hang two super sized (11x16.5 feet) abstract and halftone paintings of Chuck Close's philtrum, the depression over the upper lip. One is painted over a white, and the other over a black background. Kolker is inspired both by Chuck Close, and his heroic artistic metamorphosis, and by that powerful Midrashic legend, which informs us that we are conceived already having a universe of knowledge. However, while in utero, our upper lip is touched by the finger of God, forming the philtrum and erasing all that knowledge we already had. We are born to spend our lives learning, over and over again, that knowledge which was once ours.

Thirty paintings and light sculptures will be on view Downstairs at the Salon of Studio601, 511 West 25th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues beginning May 26, 2011 and ongoing throughout the summer.

For more information, please contact info@studio601.org or call 212.367.7300 and visit www.studio601.org and www.paulkolker.com