

Louis B. James

Brendan Smith
SI

May 4- June 15, 2014
Opening reception Sunday May 4, 6:00 to 8:00 PM

Louis B. James is pleased to present *SI*, a solo show of new paintings by Brendan Smith. Smith previously participated in a two-artist show at the gallery in 2012, and this will be his first solo exhibition in New York. *SI (System I)* is a limited series of twenty paintings created using a specific rubric of colors, surfaces, and gestures, ten of which will be on view, ten of which will be available as customizable commissions.

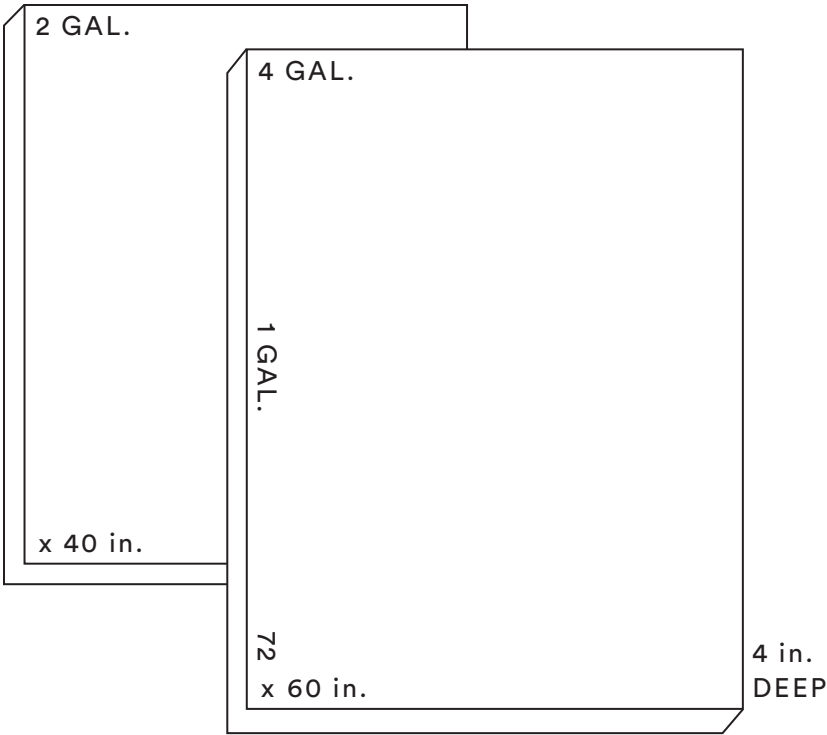
Smith's serial approach to painting recalls the workmanlike attitude of an older generation of artists, particularly those emerging out of abstract expressionism in the 1960's. For *SI* Smith has pared down his gestural vocabulary to three distinct formal inputs and two inverse palettes: grey finish and color finish, with "frames" of thickly built-up oil paint on the sides of the canvas in either color or grey respectively. The greys are mixed in the studio and reveal hints of white, variances within the norm, while the colored oil paint is specially mixed to achieve a luminous opacity.

Smith has used a trowel rather than a brush in these paintings to apply and move around the paint, miming industry. His interest in systems of movement and his task-based approach to surface – the underlying structure of the painting is very simple, the application of a material to cover a flat surface – reify this mechanical understanding of painting. Smith is interested in a slow read, in allowing the viewer to dissect the painting down to its gestural structure.

The customizable nature of *SI*'s ten to-be-made paintings complicates this industrial approach to abstraction. Smith's pleasure in the play with surface is palpable, and each new painting will be the result of a unique exchange with its owner. Moreover, both the systematic gestures and the seriality of the project enable Smith to highlight on the potential inherent in the material itself. By limiting his palette and paring down his movements, the paint itself comes to the fore.

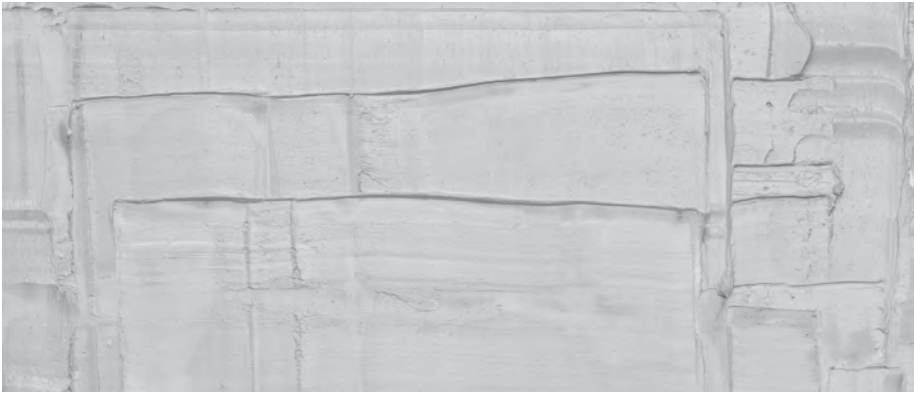
Brendan Smith (b. 1983) lives and works in New York. He received his BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2006 and his MFA from Yale University in 2011. He has previously shown in a two-artist show at Louis B. James (2012), as well as group exhibitions at Louis B. James (2013); FJORD Gallery, Philadelphia (2012); 1708 Gallery, Richmond (2012); Number35 Gallery, NY (2011); among others. His work has been published in *The New Yorker* and other publications.

Louis B. James is located at 143b Orchard Street, New York 10002. The gallery is open from Wednesday through Saturday 11:00 to 6:00, Sundays 12:00 to 6:00, or by appointment. For more information please visit louisbjames.com, call 212 533 4670, or email david@louisbjames.com.



QTY.	COLOR	PER GALLON
1 GAL.	BLUE	\$700
1 GAL.	YELLOW	\$500
1 GAL.	ORANGE	\$600
1 GAL.	BLACK	\$280
1 GAL.	WHITE	\$250
1 GAL.	LIGHT GREY	\$200
1 GAL.	DARK GREY	\$200

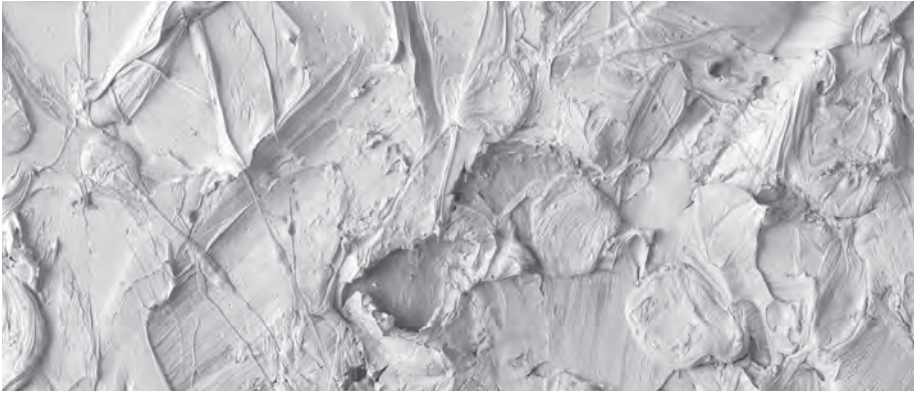
FINISH



ONE



TWO



THREE

S1-G

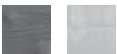
Available in 48 × 40 × 4 in. or 72 x 60 × 4 in.
with one of three finishes
Finish available in one of two greys
Sides available in one of seven colors

*Starting at \$12,000

SIDE



FRONT



S1-C

Available in 48 × 40 × 4 in. or 72 × 60 × 4 in.
with one of three finishes
Finish available in one of five colors
Sides available in one of seven colors

*Starting at \$12,000

SIDE



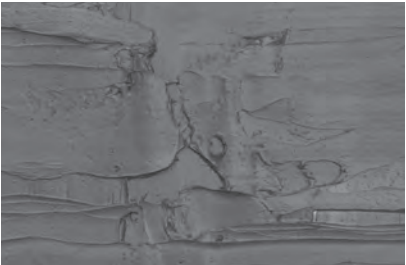
FRONT



COLOR



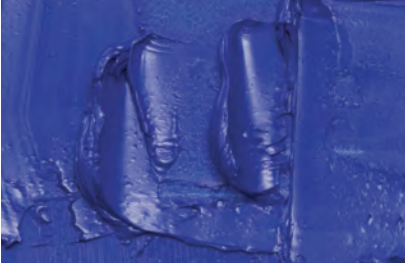
LIGHT GREY



DARK GREY



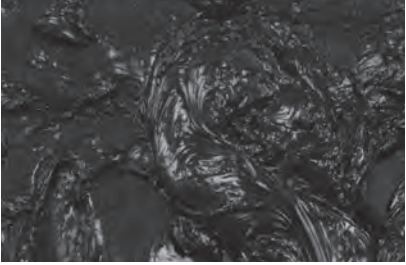
YELLOW



BLUE



ORANGE



BLACK



WHITE