## **GALERIE UNTITLED 1983**

## PRESS RELEASE

## WARNER WILLIAMS COLLECTION SOLO SHOW

OPENING: MAY 11TH 2021

EXHIBITION: MAY 12TH - JUNE 11TH 2021

GALERIE UNTITLED 1983 is delighted to present WARNER WILLIAMS PAINTINGS, a new exhibition featuring paintings from the early 1980s to the present day. The presentation marks a year since William' inaugural exhibition in Europe, "Lost Coast" at Galerie Untitled 1983.

Williams was taught by three masters of the Bay Area Figurative Movement and Bay Area Abstract Expressionism, Frank Lobdell, Nathan Oliviera, and Keith Boyle, whilst at Stanford University in the early seventies.

Warner early on distanced himself from his contemporaries by rejecting thick impasto and heavy paint. Instead, he employed a flat "staining" method with oil paint on the gesso, as well as the use of meticulous lines. Another significant element in Williams' practice is his removal of the human figure from most of his works. Taking the "ego" of humans out of the main narrative and removing them as the primary visual distraction.

As a subject matter Williams used the environment he grew up in - Central California in the Fifties and Sixties - a landscape of orchards and beautiful coastlines, surfboards and hot rods, the Beach Boys and rock and roll and Stratocaster guitars. But it was also a landscape of shocking contrasts, with superhighways brutally dominating the landscape, suburban housing developments, and industry invading the natural beauty.

Williams refers to his work as "post-contemporary", to indicate his intention to make a break with an art world that hasn't grown in 50 years, and that he believes is based on an old, failed ideology. He is providing his answer to the discontents of our current civilization by creating a consistent body of work that unites classical techniques with the liberating energies of early modernism, cubism, and abstract expressionism. Warner has created a bright and distorted reflection of the "state" of California, his Golden State, which has now gained an extraordinary body of oil paintings, visions of the beloved mundane, created in response to California's beauties and her horrors.

Warner explains "I believe in sacred geometry, significant form, and the spiritual resonance of color because I have seen them. Space, light, and color reactions are used as a kind of retinal research in my work. By using multiple vanishing points I can see over many horizons. I seek the level of poetry and music in a tightly structured whole"