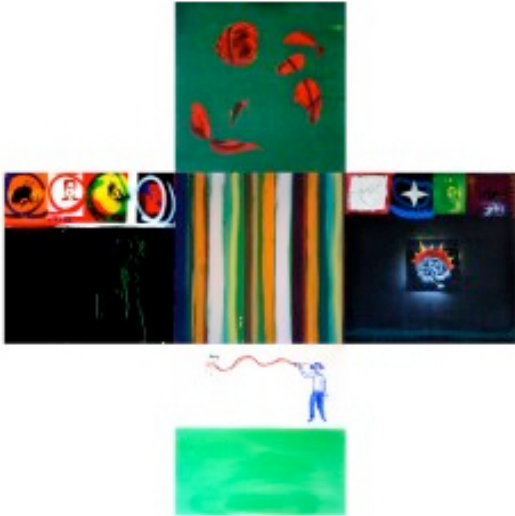


Dave Tourjé – Cacophony of Truths

By Mary Anna Pomonis



"Snap", 2011, acrylic, spray paint, silver leaf on acrylic glass, 108" x 108"

One has only to look up at the non-native palm trees on Sunset Boulevard to realize the sheer force of will that seems to embody an Angeleno. Los Angeles is perhaps to Post-Modernism what Florence was to the Italian Renaissance, with its freeway of images and artificial Venice. L.A. is a celebration of all of the promise and failure of the post-modern dialogue, a cacophony of authentic truths that presents a gritty but pretty vista. Dave Tourjé was born in Los Angeles and makes use of it as a location both metaphorically and physically in his work. The slick surfaces of plastic juxtaposed with graffiti references and driftwood seem unrelated

until you realize where and what he played with as a developing artist. Dave was a member of the influential if ephemeral L.A. band, *the Dissidents*, playing shows with bands like Camper Van Beethoven, Saccharine Trust and the Minutemen. He was also part of a contingent of early vertical skaters crossing paths with members of the *ZBoys* and snowboarding with its originator, Tom Sims. Pretty good street credential in a culture steeped in cool. To put it bluntly Tourjé is as cool as it gets, a contemporary flaneur who has operated as Director of the prestigious Chouinard Foundation and a concrete construction firm at the same time. I mean how many art school directors come out of construction? None, unless you think back a little further to the Florentine system where artists and builders ran their own studiolo art schools. Tourjé's artwork oscillates between low and high, punk and institutional hegemony, with references to Jean Michele Basquiat in it's technique and the ready-made aesthetic of Marcel Duchamp in its use of cultural detritus. Inspired by surf posters and urban scrawl among other things, Tourjé's reverse paintings on plastic swirl and stop in trippy transcendence, an experience (like the man) all their own. ■