

Paul's Art World

The former Editor at Large of Art World magazine, sets out ten recommended contemporary art shows in London now. He currently writes freelance, including for Art Monthly, The Art Newspaper, Photomonitor, STATE and Border Crossings, and has a quirky weekly online column at FAD Art News - see www.fadwebsite.com/?s=carey-kent+.

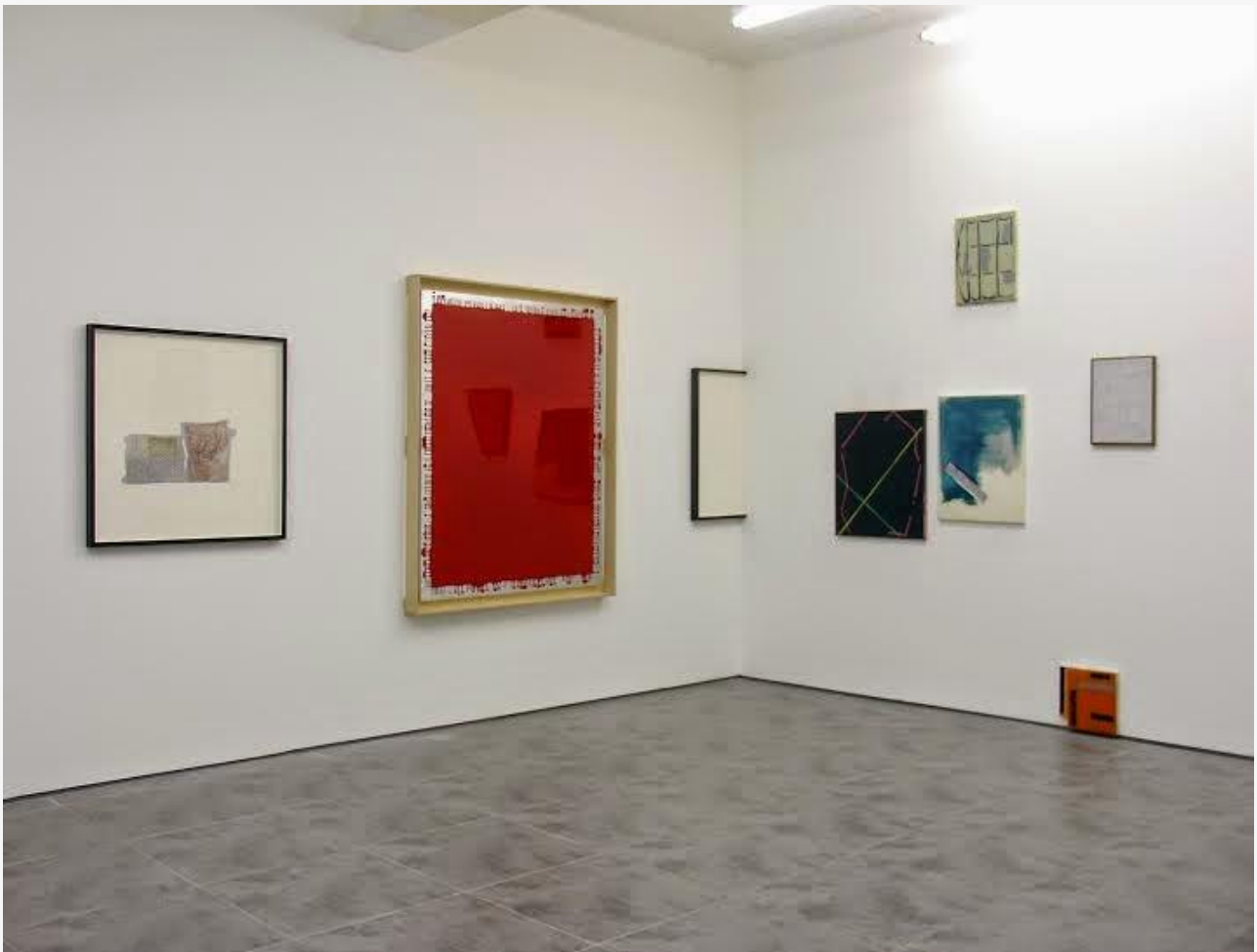
Friday, 20 March 2015

CHOICES UP NOW

The latest in my rolling top ten, together with previous choices which you can still see...

Ross Hansen & Julian Wakelin: Studio Brain @ Artworks Project Space, 114 Blackhorse Lane - Walthamstow

To 22 March: www.barbicanartsgrouptrust.co.uk/exhibitions---artworks-project-space-at-blackhorse-lane1.html



Two half walls from Hansen (left) and Wakelin (right)

Move fast for this one week show, 250 yards from the Blackhorse Road under/overground station, gives two walls each to painters engaged in the dance between originality and repetition. On the gentler right side, Julian Wakelin's hesitantly lyrical abstract motifs jostle and lean against each other in a lively hang as if ranged experimentally around the studio. On the tough left side is Ross Hansen. In 2012 he decided to give up the search for originality, and merely find ways to remake his own earlier work. Wouldn't you know it, though? He does that with paradoxically original wit and no little technical flair: we get his midlife crisis painting, in Ferrari Red; dense build-ups of pigment almost entirely sanded away; splashy-looking edges which are actually made by cutting out the paint; and dazzling photorealist drawing used to depict the studio mundanities of a stack of unprogressed paintings and couple of maquettes swaddled in bubblewrap.



Ross Hansen: *Models for Unrealised Ideas*, 2014-15, colour pencil on paper