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Marco Casentini
“Beautiful Morning”

April 27 - June 2, 2007

Opening Reception: Friday, April 27, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

San Diego, California - For Immediate Release

EVENT SUMMARY:

Scott White Contemporary Art is proud to present the forthcoming solo exhibition of recent paintings by Italian painter Marco Casentini, entitled “Beautiful Morning”. The exhibition will be available for viewing from Friday, April 27 through Saturday, June 2, 2007. The opening reception will take place on Friday, April 27 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public.

ARTIST INFORMATION:

Marco Casentini was born in 1961 in La Spezia, a sea village in North Western Italy. After studying at the College of Art and Academy of Fine Arts in Carrara, Casentini moved to Milan. Known for its elegance, it is the Milanese culture that continues to inspire and push Casentini to create sophisticated works of art. Casentini, however, also owes much of his inspiration to the landscape of southern California. Influenced by the signature color palette and use of bold, vibrant colored arrangements associated with the Bay Area Figurative movement, Casentini is inspired to create blocks of intense hues finished with lush surfaces. This development in style matured in the two years that the artist lived in Hermosa Beach.

EXHIBITION DETAILS:

Marco Casentini’s paintings are elegant, minimal studies of geometric abstraction, often inspired by an experience tied to landscape or urban scenes. Casentini masterfully distills such landscapes to bring out the bare essential of each color, and then reduces it to its minimal form. In the footsteps of Richard Diebenkorn, Casentini creates serenely geometric, color-saturated works in which the elements of landscape are only barely discernable.

Casentini paints in dense alkyd or acrylic on canvas. Each painting in Casentini’s series of works is connected through color and compositional similarities. Casentini constructs each painting by using any number of hard-edged rectangles. There is often a dominant yet subtle form, which acts as a foreground, while the surrounding forms successfully unify to establish spatial tension. The absence of a clear focal point allows the viewer to take in the painting as a whole.

Casentini plays with both subtle and striking juxtapositions in his color palette that leave the viewer with an impression or emotion, rather than a concrete image of the scene unfolding before them. In accordance with the tradition of Italian art that transcends the spiritual, Casentini uses the juxtaposition of color, light, and geometry to convey that which he finds in his everyday life. The renowned art critic, Kenneth Baker of the *San Francisco Chronicle* asserts, “

Despite their angular geometry, Casentini's color areas have an almost fleshy presence, perhaps because of the density of the medium he uses and the impermeability of the metal support. In Casentini's hands, tight clusters of colored rectangles take on the intimacy of still lifes, bringing to mind the work of Giorgio Morandi as insistently as they do that of a modernist such as German abstract painter Blinky Palermo."

Over the past two decades, Casentini has developed into a prolific artist, exhibiting internationally with renowned galleries in Munich, London, Milan, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Chicago. In 2005, he won the prestigious Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and was included in a monumental group exhibition at the Tucson Museum of Modern Art entitled "Paint on Metal" alongside such historically significant artists as Alexander Calder, Robert Rauschenberg, Frank Stella, David Smith, and others. He is scheduled for a monumental exhibition at the Museum fur Konkrete Kunst in Ingolstadt, Germany in 2008.

Gallery Information:

Based in San Diego, SCOTT WHITE CONTEMPORARY ART is committed to the promotion of emerging and mid-career artists from the U.S. and abroad. Scott White Contemporary Art exhibits significant modern & contemporary painting, sculpture and photography, the majority of which are represented in permanent collections of museums around the world. We are dedicated to providing complete art consultation services to the novice and seasoned collector.

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Gallery Hours:

Tue – Fri: 9:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Sat: 11:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Closed: Sun & Mon

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