

***TWO** Review written by Sunook Park, Professor, California State University, Long Beach*

"Two" is a joint exhibition of sculptures by Kristan Marvell and paintings by Michael Freitas Wood.

These Los Angeles-based artists utilize near opposite techniques, yet both distinctly visualize their consciousness through works that endure relevance and hold up a mirror to the viewer. Marvell is organic and spontaneous in his gestures, while Wood is systematic and calculated, without demanding complete control. Both challenge us to find center in the many dimensions of our world and of our own inner psyche.

Marvell's sculptures emulate the irreplicable, mysterious beauty of natural rock formation, which he refers to as "the cathedrals of the natural world". His efforts realize a quest to understand these aesthetics--the incessant order and disorder of life on earth--while simultaneously paying tribute to them. Compressing tens of thousands of years into a few swift seconds, Marvell dances his hot wire through Styrofoam blocks and manipulates hot wax with water, creating works that are uniquely grandiose in their reverence for nature's design and reflection of our own fleeting existence.

Wood forms and finds his personal order through the creation of contemporary mandalas. Drawing upon "The Geometry of Art And Life," by Matila Ghyka, as well as Tibetan monk mandala paintings and Islamic patterning, he materializes these sources of inspiration in a diverse application of media, which include acrylic plaster, iridescent pigments, and reflective tape. All are intricately defined and harmonized upon plywood and fiberglass sheets. Despite this meticulous process of patterning and layering, Wood emphasizes "the beauty of the uncontrollable", and consciously destroys his grids when necessary. Strata of layers, each representing the response of time, are a manifestation of universal interconnectedness.