

Elizabeth Gordon Gallery
15 West Gutierrez, Santa Barbara, CA 93101
805.963.1157

Press Release

John Hillis Sanders

Day to Night

October 30 to November 30, 2017

Opening Reception November 4 at 2-4 pm

Elizabeth Gordon Gallery

15 West Gutierrez, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

805.963.1157

Artist's Talk with John Hillis Sanders

November 11 at 2 pm

Karpeles Museum, 21 W. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara, CA

805.962.5322

Elizabeth Gordon Gallery is pleased to present *Day to Night*, an unusual and unique installation by American artist John Hillis Sanders. The new work within this exhibition is a continuation of Sanders' on-going exploration since the late 1980's into surface and light.

The show includes studio work, along with two light installations intended for viewing both during the day and at night under ultra-violet light. By day, Sanders' lusciously textural sculptural pieces are formal abstractions. By night, they resonate with mystery and wonder, like a star-studded sky.

In mounting a simple chair upon a canvas mounted upon the wall, the artist defies gravity in a most theatrical way. This shifting of the "floor" invokes a topographical disposition that is surprising and unexpected. The everyday object suddenly becomes extraordinary.

The performative process of applying long whips of paint across the chair and canvas results in a layering of marks that viscerally define the movements of the artist at work, whose body and its dynamic behavior become part of the energy of the art. These sweeps of fluorescent paint, when viewed under ultra-violet light, alter the depth-of-field and electrify the surface with what feels like a web of charged particles in the ether.

The work can be viewed within the gallery during open daylight hours and from the street during evening hours. The viewer is invited to take in both perceptions to appreciate the full effect of Sanders' orchestration of surface and light.

Sanders' career spans over five decades and his work has been exhibited extensively throughout Southern California. His most expansive works are large scale and installation pieces, many of which are site-specific original commissions. After receiving a Master of Arts from California State University Long Beach in 1972, he taught both sculpture and ceramics for many years at several major universities – most notably California State University, Los Angeles and University of California, Irvine – along with numerous guest lectures and seminars.