

NOBU FUKUI

September 10th – October 17th 2009



NOBU FUKUI, *ALLURE*, 2009, Mixed media on canvas over panel, 18 x 48 inches

Stephen Haller Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of the work of **NOBU FUKUI** - dynamic new canvases vibrant with invention.

New York Times critic Benjamin Genocchio wrote of Fukui's work: "In fact, some works are so densely layered that they are a bit like bubbling cauldrons of imagery. It is part Pop Art, part potpourri..."

Fukui's new series of paintings is inspired by an image he experienced of a sky dense with swirling flocks of birds. The surprise three-dimensionality of crystalline or pearl-like beads touched with paint adds to the dazzling complexity of these dynamic works, and a sense of movement is suggested by circular images - wheels within wheels in a kaleidoscopic richness of intense color. The new scattering of beads suggests spawn - a vibrancy of teeming life and vitality.

Fukui's work reads as non-objective painting at a distance, yet on closer observation beguiles with surprisingly provocative imagery that suggests narrative. The eye plays across the surface of his work as if watching a video game in giddy visual delight. Oil paint, acrylics, three-dimensional beads, collage; these are some of the ingredients of this exciting work. Fukui displays "a virtuoso control over his materials" writes critic Carter Ratcliff in his *Art in America* feature on the artist.

There has always been a push-pull in Fukui's collage-based paintings of the last few years - a sensation of almost falling into the celestial spaces of the early series, or of being drawn in to the densely packed imagery of his *Art in America* or *Superheroes* series. His distinctly fresh approach creates a kind of Pollock-like frenzy of color, re-inventing action painting with images.

Nobu Fukui's work is also currently on exhibition at the Haggerty Museum in *Jump Cut Pop*.