



Thihipahapo (detail), 2011, Acrylic on canvas on wood, 63 x 65 inches (160 x 165 cm)

Steven Charles

I Don't Know My Life What To Do With
New Paintings

May 10 – June 23, 2012

Stux Gallery is pleased to announce **Steven Charles'** new solo show, "I Don't Know What My Life To Do With". This is Charles' sixth solo show and first show at Stux. Working with a vast repertoire of imaginative materials and painting processes, Charles' canvases offer an electrifying clash of dizzying, explosive patterns, complemented by the presence of staunch control.

Born to an auto-worker father in England, Charles grew up in Texas and became the only artist in his family. He abandoned his original interest in portraiture and landscape paintings after experiencing abstraction's ability to generate confusion and mystery to him. His unplanned, spontaneous, oversaturated and borderline psychedelic paintings are executed with exhausting exactness and discipline. A genuine lover of "clutter", Charles admires minimalists such as Agnes Martin for their restraint.

Severely nearsighted, Charles works inches away from the canvas, and obsessively covers every inch of the fabric with layers of dense patterns of bright, sometimes microscopic enamel dots and playful surfaces. Every edge is precisely calibrated, and the interlacing patterns allude to a possible overarching rhythm. This insistence for order creates a frustrating sense of confinement that makes the spontaneous, bursting energy of his dynamic technique even more dazzling. Objects such as rulers, towels and yarn are occasionally incorporated frenetically without apparent consideration for anything besides their contour and texture. Viewed at a distance, the intricate details recede, and the dizzying breathlessness transforms into an overwhelming sensation of depth and expansiveness.

Charles's maximalist, completely abstract surface questions the notion that abstraction, by common definition, is a process of reduction. Maps, terrains, computer circuits, native American references, urban plans and biological forms all appear as viewers attempt to decipher his pulsating networks. His saturated images become mirrors that viewers can't help but project themselves upon, but any faint recognition of identifiable forms will become immediately overturned by Charles' gift for creating ephemeral, seemingly intentional suggestions.

-Lucy Li

Steven Charles is a New York based artist born in England. He earned his BA from the University of North Texas and his MFA from Temple University in Rome. His works have been exhibited in New York in three solo shows at Pierogi and two solo shows at Marlborough, as well as abroad in Canada and Spain. He has been reviewed in publications such as the New York Times, Art in America, BOMB, The San Francisco Chronicle, The San Francisco Examiner, and The Atlantic Monthly. In 2000, his work earned him both a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant and a New York Foundation for the Arts (NYFA) Art Fellowship.

For further information please contact the gallery at Andrea@stuxgallery.com