

## HOW HUMAN OF YOU



Bojan Maric



In the postmodern epoch within discourses of Western societies, anthropocentric approach to contemporaneity, especially in social theory and art, has shifted toward notions of (radical) pluralism. This has become obvious in the creative practices of contemporary artists whose artistic output, more and more, resonates the current situation (read more on this topic in [Why is Urban Art Inherently Postmodern?](#)). Recently, 101/EXHIBIT gallery space had shown us an interesting exhibition conveying these notions (read more in our article [Prism](#)). This cultural institution continues with similar explorations of reality. This time, we have a chance to face the thought-provoking artwork focusing on human nature, coming from the creative tools of Kent Williams...



Kent Williams – Laëtitia, 2014 – Oil on canvas

## The Art of Kent Williams

Kent Williams had graduated in 1984 from Pratt Institute in New York City. His artistic practice is an amalgam of creative outputs, including printmaking, design, photography, architecture, film and graphic novel. When it comes to the illustrated word and the graphic novel, the artist has an extraordinary background. Among other endeavors, together with director Darren Aronofsky, he had created a graphic novel *The Fountain*, which was also made into a feature film. On the other hand, Kent Williams nurtures a deep devotion to the medium of painting. In this regard, the artist considers the human figure to be a perfect paradigm for human condition. His work has been featured in more than twenty solo exhibitions within the span of two decades and in cities such as Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Paris, to name just a few... Williams' work has been featured in various publications, including three monographs: *Amalgam: Paintings and Drawings, 1992 – 2007*; *Eklektikos*, and most recently, *Ophthalm*. Right now, the artist has an exciting exhibition at 101/EXHIBIT, investigating the human form on the boundaries of abstract expression...



Kent Williams – The Garden Party, 2014 – Oil on canvas

## Human Form on the Edge of Abstraction

Somewhat moving beyond his previous body of work *Convergence*, where there was a certain representational balance between abstract elements and the instances of human form, Williams takes upon a role of an investigator of grey areas between these two polarities. Williams' knowledge on the human anatomy and his particular sense for representing the body transpires into [mesmerizing aesthetics](#). With *How Human of You*, the artists new paintings form a certain structural unity. Namely, the elements of human form and abstraction of one piece can assist the viewer in creating a contextualization and connotational analysis for the purely abstract works (if you like Abstract art, check out artists who are devoted to this kind of artistic output [in our artist database](#)).



Kent Williams – In Sleep, 2013 – Oil on linen

## How Human of You

Surely, it can be said that the new body of work by Kent Williams represents a pivotal point in the artist's career. This transition towards abstract works is also marked by a change of hands in representation from Merry Karnowsky Gallery in Los Angeles to 101/EXHIBIT. Although this transition does not represent a complete abandoning of the artist's previous methodology, the exhibition How Human of You shows a number of completely new forms of creative expression. Inspiring works by Kent Williams can be seen in the period between October 25th and December 20th 2014 at 101/EXHIBIT West Hollywood space. The show is accompanied by a catalog featuring a poem written by Los Angeles poet Eve Wood.



Kent Williams – Plate Glass Window: Typhoon, 2014 – Oil on linen



Kent Williams – Titi, 2013 – Mixed media on paper



Kent Williams – The Reveal (study 2), 2014 – Mixed media on paper

Images courtesy of 101exhibit.com