

RYAN LEE

RYAN LEE GALLERY LLC
515 WEST 26TH STREET
NEW YORK NY 10001
212 397 0742
RYANLEEGALLERY.COM

Donald Sultan: Artifice
515 West 26th Street, 3rd Floor
April 24 – June 27, 2014
Opening: Thursday, April 24, 6-8PM

RYAN LEE is pleased to announce *Donald Sultan: Artifice*, an exhibition of new paintings by Donald Sultan, and the inaugural exhibition in the gallery's new 8,000-square-foot space located at 515 West 26th Street. *Donald Sultan: Artifice* will highlight the artist's continued interest in and reinvention of the still-life genre through the exploration of color, scale, form, and repetition that is characteristic of his practice.

The exhibition will feature eight paintings and an aluminum sculpture that introduce new imagery, including the button poppy, as well as expand upon imagery he has used in his artistic practice. There are variations on both his signature poppy image inspired by the red poppies worn to commemorate Veteran's Day, overlaid with the herringbone pattern, and the more recent lantern flower patterns, derived from a detail of a Chinese paper lantern. Among the works on view will be two monumental paintings of an iconic single flower combined with a plastic button for the first time. Emphasizing the tough, sumptuous texture and rich, bold colors of the paintings through multiple layers of pigment, plaster, and linoleum, he reveals a single form, one that is strangely recognizable, yet unreal. Sultan says, "It's a painting that looks at you." *Blue Poppy Yellow Poppy, Nov 4 2013* is a double-sided aluminum sculpture related to the physicality of the paintings. It is predominantly blue on one side and predominantly yellow on the other, with an exposed metal center and edge that reveals its materiality.

Sultan, an internationally recognized artist who rose to prominence in the late 1970s as part of the "New Image" movement, is known for elevating the still-life tradition through the deconstruction of his subjects into basic forms and the use of industrial materials. His paintings characteristically employ enamel, roofing tar, aluminum, linoleum, and spackle, pushing the boundaries of the medium through techniques of gouging, sanding, and buffing to create flatness, depth, and texture. The works are made of the same materials as the building in which the viewer stands; the architecture participates in the paintings. Weighty and structured, Sultan's paintings are simultaneously abstract and representational: while his imagery is immediately recognizable – flowers, daily objects, insignia, idle factories – the dominating, abstract forms contradict its common association with fragility.

Born in Asheville, North Carolina, Sultan studied at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and later received his MFA from the School of the Art Institute, Chicago. His first solo exhibition was mounted in 1977 at Artists Space in New York, and his work has since been exhibited worldwide in solo and group exhibitions, including at: the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington, DC; Gotlands Konst Museum, Sweden; Institute of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Memphis Brooks Museum, Memphis; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Musée d'art Contemporain, Montreal; National Galerie, Berlin; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. His work is included in internationally renowned public and private collections, among them The Art Institute of Chicago; British Museum; Cincinnati Art Museum; Cleveland Art Museum; Dallas Museum of Fine Arts; Detroit Institute of Arts; Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, Cambridge; Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Washington, DC; Ludwig Museum, Budapest; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Tokyo; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; Neuberger Museum at SUNY-Purchase, New York; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Singapore Museum of Art; The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Gallery, London; and Walker Art Center, Minneapolis.

For further press inquiries, please contact Courtney Willis Blair at 212-397-0742 or courtney@ryanleegallery.com