

**PATRAJDAS Contemporary presents Kim Piotrowski “Icons”**Reception: **Saturday, January 28 from 6 - 9 p. m.**at **Art Loft PA**

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p: (917) 737-2784 / [www.artloftpa.com](http://www.artloftpa.com)

Sometimes all you can recall of your dreams are flashes of vivid color, emotions and a couple of vague details; it is in that elusive realm between dreaming and reality that Kim Piotrowski's new lush, mixed-media paintings live/reside/hover.



Patrajdas Contemporary is pleased to present “Icons”, a curated selection of works by Chicago-based artist Kim Piotrowski, who creates expressive mixed-media paintings, embracing an abstract language with just a hint of representation. Melding drawing and painting together in a manner that produces immediacy in her abstractions, Piotrowski works solely on synthetic paper, having discovered that the soft, matte surface won't absorb the paint, and therefore provides what she describes as “something very close to the nerve endings in drawings”. Piotrowski goes wild using a variety of materials—from gouache to permanent marker, India ink to conté crayon. The wide spectrum of media is used in ways both transparent and mysterious—easily readable brushstrokes capture a sense of action that allow the viewer to participate in the creation of each stroke, smear, smudge, and drip. Bright, flat stretches of color appear in every painting to accentuate glossy fields of paint that somehow still appear wet, as if the paintings were alive and in progress.

Her techniques evince sober control, but their effect is kinetic, occasionally wild. The resultant works hum with energy: the brush strokes, the running together of colors, the various stages of drying processes; transparent, intermingled areas hold their own next to opaque color fields and graphic elements. Mostly abstract, her works contain only hints of figuration and lots of gorgeous, carefully composed color: plumes of orange, swirls of cyan, splashes of olive and fire-engine red.

Piotrowski draws inspiration from big issues—including tragedies such as Hurricane Katrina—and the expression of social consciousness gives her works an added dimension. She creates all-inclusive stories with her paintings, each tackling worldly and social themes. “For years the content informing my abstract work has been a pointed grab of subject matter from current events and my charged painterly response ... My choice of imagery stems from the common experiences of vulnerability ... the physical, material and psychological aspects pertaining to the ideas of power and how they interrelate. ... Parallels unfold that are very exciting to explore; the work can then evoke emotional and thoughtful responses to these icons within the context of today.”

Explaining her current work, Piotrowski says, “The last few years I've worked in series making a number of paintings from icons such as crowns, beds and guns. In bed, man experiences many different conditions such as sleep and rest, sexuality, birth, illness and death. “There is a significant place in life that is very personal - and that is universal to all people equally,” explains the artist.

Two standout works in the exhibition have made an impression on the press: TimeOut-Chicago raves: “In her large-scale Pillow Road, she tucks two satiny pillows into a bedspread composed of Rothko-esque layers of brown and red paint that span the width of the piece. Colors explode above the pillows, suggesting the mind remains active even when the body's at rest... Pillow Road's long sweeps of paint using several paintbrushes taped together, a trick that reflects her imaginative approach to materials.”

And, NewCityArt says: “In “Love in Plasma,” the silvery sheen of a ruffled bedsheet in the lower portion of the painting stands out starkly against a white background, while above, amorphous shapes hover and give way to a frenzy of colors and strokes. Piotrowski is a gutsy colorist, employing bright, deeply saturated hues and coruscating pigments alongside earthy tones and textures, always to startling effect. The evocations of volatility and quiescence in Piotrowski's use of color and brushwork speak to the exploration of controlled chaos in this body of work.”

Ms. Piotrowski is a graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, and has exhibited in Chicago, San Francisco, Houston, the Hamptons and Germany; this is her first exhibition in Philadelphia.

The exhibition will be hosted at ArtLoft PA, in Philadelphia's Loft District with a Reservations-Required

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Please RSVP: (917) 737-2784

The public may also view works by appointment M-Sa 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. through February 20, 2012.

For more information, please call us at (917) 737-2784 or email [aeh@patrajdas.com](mailto:aeh@patrajdas.com)

**PATRAJDAS Contemporary** celebrates creative excellence in contemporary fine art, objects and design. We are focused on conceptual, rigorous, innovative, and serious work, and are committed to nurturing the achievements and evolution of emerging, mid-career, and established contemporary artists in all media. The gallery embraces the artist who challenges conventional expectation in concept or design yet excels in formality, technical expertise, craftsmanship, and originality. For more information, or to arrange a personal consultation: [www.patrajdas.com](http://www.patrajdas.com).