

Galerie Lisa Kandhofer  
 Brucknerstrasse 4  
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 Austria  
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## THE BURSTING GRAPE JAMES ENGLISH LEARY

5 May - 3 June 2017

Preview: 4 May 2017, 7 pm

**Galerie Lisa Kandhofer is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of James English Leary in Austria.**

The paintings of James English Leary (\*1982 Chicago, US) pit figuration against abstraction involving metaphors that nurse (and satirize) camp-psychological states in the viewer.

Rather than "painting the paintings" Leary constructs them out of painting's component parts (stretcher, fabric, color, in that order) often employing a shaped substrate.

The resulting image-objects and their buoyant overtures towards a "language" humorously engage the problematics of how to "read" a painting and conjure the art experience as a slapstick rorschach, a drama of legibility, which hinges on the impossibility of making a shape that doesn't eventually refer back to something of this world.

James English Leary lives in New York City and works as an artist, filmmaker and teacher.

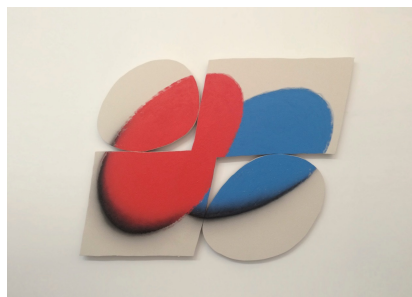
He is a founding member of **The Bruce High Quality Foundation** and the **Foundation's free university, BHQFU**.

In 2010 his works were included at the **Whitney Biennial** and the „Greater New York“ Show at **MoMA PS1**.

Leary's recent solo exhibitions include **Simgaleria, Curitiba, Brazil, 2017**; "Family Romance", **Galeria Leyendecker, Tenerife, 2016**, „Lady Chatterley's Lover's Lovers“, **Four A.M., New York, 2016** and „Triple Motherfucker“, **Vito Schnabel Projects, New York City, 2015**.

He is the recipient of a 2015 **Tiffany Foundation Award** and currently an adjunct professor at „**The Cooper Union School of Art**“.

*"I think when people talk about abstraction, what they mean is materials that only refer to themselves. I think abstraction is impossible actually - even paintings that we talk about as being abstract. You kind of project figuration on to if you are like me. If you look at a Jackson Pollock painting and you see like - you know - the hippies dancing in the rain. You kind of have to complete this representation yourself and you need to commit to some position within yourself about wanting a picture to refer to a body."*



**James English Leary**  
 Double Infinity, 2016  
 Acrylic on Shaped Canvas  
 177.8 x 132.1 cm