



*Heart of the Matter* | 2014 | Oil on canvas | 66 x 57 inches

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CONTACT KEVIN VAN GORP

# KENT WILLIAMS

HOW HUMAN OF YOU

OCTOBER 25 – DECEMBER 20, 2014  
BOOK SIGNING OCTOBER 25, 6-7PM  
OPENING RECEPTION 7-10PM

101/EXHIBIT is proud to present *How Human of You* by Los Angeles artist Kent Williams. The exhibition will be accompanied by a 32-page show catalog featuring a poem written by Los Angeles poet Eve Wood. A book signing will be held with the artist from 6 - 7pm, followed by an opening reception from 7 – 10pm on Saturday, October 25th. *How Human of You* will run through December 20th at the 101/EXHIBIT West Hollywood space, located at **8920 Melrose Ave** on the corner of North Almont Drive, one block south of Santa Monica Blvd.

For his first solo exhibition with the gallery, Kent Williams has propelled his dexterity with painterly mark-making beyond concerns of spatial realism and the human figure into the viscerally abstract. Having formally exhibited with Merry Karnowsky Gallery in Los Angeles for nearly 20 years, a change of hands in representation to 101/EXHIBIT is being marked by a decidedly accelerated transition towards abstract works. Though the artist has not completely abandoned his idiosyncratically representational elements for this show, certain examples of total abstraction will be present in this exhibition by Williams for the first time.

With a storied and even legendary career behind him that has seen notable forays into the illustrated word and the graphic novel, Williams has maintained a passionate relationship with drawing and the ways it directly informs painting, which he sees as the premier medium of artistic production. Acknowledging the grand history of painting and the importance it still plays to this day in the ways we see ourselves, Williams has long considered the human figure to be the obvious vehicle to represent the human condition.

## 101 / EXHIBIT

His acute sense of human anatomy has consistently been a staple in his work throughout his career, yet as we see with *How Human Of You*, the natural tendency we have to explore, experiment, and transition has lead Williams to fresh ground. Moving from his previous body of work *Convergence*, which saw an incredible balancing act of identifiably representational and abstract elements within the same composition, the new paintings function on the border or grey area between the two polarities. Here we have a new body of work where the representational properties of one painting inform the highly abstracted motives of another, which then assists the viewer in contextually processing the completely non-objective works. The evolutionary processes that have taken place in Williams' practice of late are then fully evident, and can be celebrated as a pivotal moment where new artistic terrain is unearthed.

Kent Williams' work has been the subject of more than twenty solo exhibitions in almost the same number of years, including shows in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Sundance, UT, The Duke Museum of Art, Durham, NC, Santa Fe, NM, and Paris. Williams has participated in many group exhibitions, including the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery's *Outwin Boochever Portrait Painting and Sculpture Exhibition*, in Washington, DC in 2006 – 2007. Williams' work has been widely published both in the US and abroad, has won numerous awards, and includes three monographs; *Amalgam: Paintings and Drawings, 1992 – 2007*, *Eklektikos*, and most recently, *Ophthalm*.

101/EXHIBIT was founded in 2008 in Miami, FL. Named after its original location, 101 NE 40th St., the gallery actively represents an international group of prolific emerging and established contemporary artists. Initially built around artists who place an emphasis upon figurative concerns, the gallery program continues to expand, embracing unparalleled craft, counter trend experimentation, New Media, and deviations into abstraction, installation-forward, and object-based works to expand the greater initiative of the program.