

LEILA TAGHINIA-MILANI HELLER GALLERY



Alexis Laurent
Open Studio *SENSES*

Opening reception Thursday, March 10 from 6-10pm
470 Alabama Street, SF, CA

The exhibition continues through May 10, 2011

Open hours: Monday through Friday 11:00AM to 4:00PM



San Francisco based French-American artist Alexis Laurent is opening his 14,000 sq. ft art studio, showcasing large-scale installations, sculptures and paintings that will be on view from March 10 through May 10, 2011. The theme of the works is *Senses* focusing on the dialogue between the industrial world and the natural world. The open studio will be followed by a fully illustrated catalogue and video footage of the making of the installations and vernissage.

Laurent's inspiration comes primarily from his childhood where he spent countless hours in his parents' jewelry workshop, in nature, and eventually helping his dad build his house with their own hands. This eclectic past has enabled him to access multiple skill-sets and plays a strong role in the materials he works with. The ability to mix traditional and non-traditional materials and to create unions between these materials is vital to him.

During this last year of production, Laurent's new body of work deepened his interest in the dialogue between the natural world and the industrial one. It is this dialectic focused on the deconstruction/reconstruction of those two worlds in endless shapes that he is passionate about.

Specifically he has found a strong attraction to making what he calls "living sculptures", an assemblage of various materials - mostly metal -with living plants. Ultimately, through the blending of diverse and sometimes contrasting components, he sets out to maintain an element of 'surprise' in all of his projects. These sculptures stem from his love of nature and architecture and the potential to redesign urban landscapes. He believes that, as a society, the more we "go digital" the more we will need to "go natural".

Alexis Laurent was born near Paris in 1969 and is a self-taught artist. His work has been exhibited in New York, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, San Francisco, and Houston. He lives and works in San Francisco, CA, USA. Laurent is represented by LTMH Gallery, New York.

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