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Alexis Laurent: *Be a Flâneur*
An exhibition of painting and sculpture
Opens November 17 at the Decorative Center Houston
A touring exhibition hosted by Cohen Design Centers

August 26, 2010 – San Francisco based contemporary artist, Alexis Laurent, will exhibit his paintings and sculptures at the Cohen Design Centers across North America beginning November 2010. Laurent's contemporary paintings and large scale urban sculptures will be on display at the Decorative Center Houston, Houston, TX (Nov 17); at the Design Center of the Americas in Dania Beach, FL (Jan 19) and at the Pacific Design Center in West Hollywood, CA (March 23). The exhibit will coincide with the Design Markets at each Design Center.

Charles Cohen, President and CEO of Cohen Brothers Realty and the force behind the Cohen Design Centers, has constructed and redeveloped major office buildings and commercial spaces from Los Angeles to New York City. He works with world famous architects (Cesar Pelli, Phillip Johnson and Helmut Jahn) to develop a distinctive style. He has combined his interest in architecture and the arts by incorporating exhibit space for artists within each building. In his Design Centers the space provides residential and commercial showrooms to the trade as well as exhibit space for a wide range of artists and sculptors. Laurent's painting and sculpture exhibit "Be a Flâneur" will be displayed in three of the Design Centers beginning this November. This is part of the new arts programming for the Design Centers, Design Loves Art (DLA), which is intended to bring, by invitation only, influential artists from around the world into the design centers and to create connections between art and design. For more information on the DLA program visit <http://www.pacificdesigncenter.com/#!/design-loves-art/>.

Laurent's exhibition of painting and sculpture entitled "Be a Flâneur" (translation "Be a Wanderer") encourages the viewer to take a journey into the urban landscape. Laurent encourages the viewer to "get lost" in the "city" that is his exhibit. It is his distinctive paintings and sculptures that distinguish the landscape that he has created. His art differentiates the space from its surroundings just as Cohen's architecture does. Many of the materials used in Laurent's sculptures are found in nature and portray an urban landscape.

"It is not the materials themselves, but the transformative act of the artist in fashioning them into art that startles our consciousness." Robert Flynn Johnson, Curator Emeritus, Achenbach Foundation for Graphic Arts, Fine Arts Museum of San Francisco.

French-born American artist, Laurent, was raised in rural Southern France by his artistic parents who created and sold jewelry and crepes in the small town of Biot. Upon graduation with advanced university degrees from Aix-en-Provence and the elite Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po Paris) in the 1990s, Laurent moved to the United States with his American wife. In 2003 he began to rethink his career in international business and decided to return to France with his wife and infant daughter. Returning to his roots and artistic home, Laurent began to rediscover his artistic sensibility and create a narrative for his artistic vision for the future. He returned to the States in 2006 and dedicated himself to his large-scale painting. Since renovating a 9,000 sq/ft San Francisco warehouse as his studio he has had the space and opportunity to create and display his contemporary paintings and large-scale urban sculptures.

In addition to the Cohen Design Centers, Laurent's work will be displayed in September at the "East Meets West on the East End" exhibit presented by Tripoli Gallery of Contemporary Art and Leila Taghinia-Milani Heller (LTMH) Gallery in Southampton, NY (Sept 1-29). Laurent's sculpture "Les Chardons" was also recently selected for the 2010 Abu Dhabi Art Fair in the capital of the United Arab Emirate for the outdoor "Beyond" section of the exhibit (Abu Dhabi, UAE, Nov 4-7).

For more information about this event, or to schedule an interview with Alexis Laurent, contact Caitlin Griffin, 912 272-4565, caitlin.a.griffin@gmail.com.

"Be a Flâneur" touring exhibit
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Design Center of the Americas, Dania Beach, FL, Jan 19
Pacific Design Center, West Hollywood, CA, Mar 23
www.alexislaurent.com

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