

# GUIDED BY INVOICES

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## **RAFAEL VEGA**

September – October 2012

Guided by Invoices is pleased to announce Rafael Vega's debut solo exhibition.

Vega's artistic practice is informed by his background in the sciences. In a new body of work, completed during his MFA at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, Vega composes abstract systems of marks using acrylic, spray paint, and cuts into the Masonite surfaces of his paintings. Here, optical pressure points oscillate and reverberate around a shifting center within various dimensions of the picture plane. For Vega, the cut and process of *intra*-surface painting, enables a "transit between the tactile and the optical."

These compositions incorporate technological innovations of the last half-century into a language of abstraction. The way a black and white photograph of a distant galaxy is applied with gradients of color after being received from Hubble, or the uneven borders constitute a pieced together panorama of the Martian horizon. This overlaying of information in mapping the unknown, a kind of indeterminate functionality, is at work in Vega's paintings.

Historian Thomas Kuhn coined the phrase "paradigm shift," in his 1962 essay *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, referring to the moment in which an unexpected discovery necessitates a reconstitution of a theoretical framework. For Vega it is the passage from one view worldview into the next that is distilled, "I repeat to question and understand, in order to catch the precise moment when a certain form is transformed into another."

Rafael Vega was born in Yabucoa, Puerto Rico in 1979. He lives and works in New York City and graduated with an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2012. He has received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 2007 and a Bachelor of Science degree in 2003 from El Universidad de Puerto Rico.

For further information, please contact [info@guidedbyinvoices.us](mailto:info@guidedbyinvoices.us) or visit the website [www.guidedbyinvoices.us](http://www.guidedbyinvoices.us).