

## GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

# JAMES OLIVER

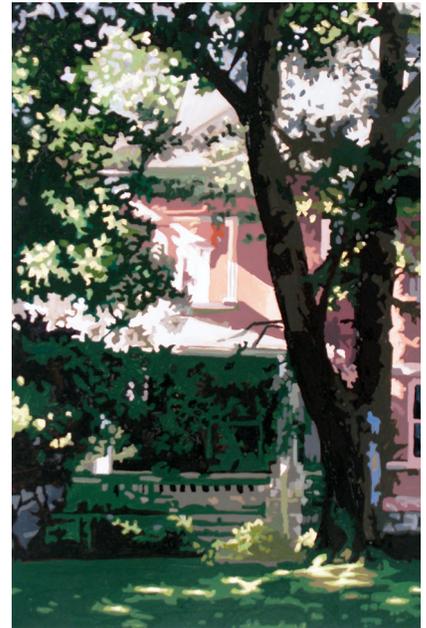
DECEMBER 12, 2017 - JANUARY 6, 2018

George Billis Gallery is pleased to announce James Oliver and his new paintings at the New York location. This exhibition will run from December 12, 2017 - January 6, 2018. The opening reception will be held at the George Billis Gallery located at 525 West 26th Street between 10th and 11th avenues on Thursday, December 14th from 6 - 8 pm. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 - 6pm.

In organizing these paintings, I combine aspects from multiple sources—drawings, reference photographs, both personal and others, and memories of events or places where crowds gather. Figure and ground are organized with shape and color, to build a space that can be viewed for both for its sense of simplistic realism and an organic quality of abstraction.

In constructing the imagery, the focus becomes a means for constructing a crowd from multiple sources woven together in composition. What happens formally within the painting takes precedent. The issues of composition and color and how they work with and sometimes against one another to either amplify or flatten the space become paramount.

By scaling the work to an a variety of sizes, gaps within the compositions and other more recognizable elements combine into abstracted, yet still identifiable shapes coalescing into forms. The scale, I feel, integrates the viewer as an active participant in the experience of the work. Rather than just viewing the work passively, the viewer is asked to engage in the work both formally and conceptually by filtering the generalized scene through his or her own personal memories of similar events or spaces.



*Jefferson Street (401), gouache on panel,  
10x8"*



*Crowd (Composition #11), gouache on panel,  
8x18"*

The George Billis Gallery marks its 20th year in the Chelsea Art district and its sister gallery is located in the burgeoning gallery district of Culver City in Los Angeles. For more information, please contact the gallery via e-mail at [gallery@georgebillis.com](mailto:gallery@georgebillis.com) or visit our website at [www.georgebillis.com](http://www.georgebillis.com).

GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY  
525 WEST 26TH STREET, GROUND FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 10001  
212 645 2621  
[GALLERY@GEORGEBILLIS.COM](mailto:GALLERY@GEORGEBILLIS.COM)

[WWW.GEORGEBILLIS.COM](http://WWW.GEORGEBILLIS.COM)