

UPCOMING SHOW

Up to 15 works
Feb. 18-March 24, 2012
George Billis Gallery LA
2716 S. La Cienega Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90034
(310) 838-3685

Tom Gregg



Formal constructs

om Gregg has an intense interest in the fundamental form of objects and the way he can create abstracted form and gestures through folded fabrics. A previous show at the George Billis Gallery of similar work was titled *Knots and Unknowns*, and this current exhibition plays upon these themes even more with the introduction of the iconic presence of the American flag.

"What draws me to the flag pieces is the sculptural aspect of them," says Gregg. "Unlike flowers, fruits or a glass, fabric can become anything. So, I become a sculptor in setting up a piece with various folds and such of the fabric and then approach it as a painter when completing the work."

Gregg then enjoys painting the rigid geometry of the flag combined with the



LEMONS AND WATER, OIL ON CANVAS



RED FLAG, OIL ON CANVAS, 291/2 X 261/2"



Blue Flag, oil on canvas, 291/2 x 261/2"

The Gallery Says . . .

"Gregg's still life paintings are a balance between convincing realism and formal construction. Brilliant in color and impeccably rendered, Gregg's work pays homage to the stories told by the objects of our daily lives."

> —Tressa Williams, Director, George Billis Gallery LA

abstracted folds of the fabric. In this way, unlike traditional still life work, the forms aren't objects but rather made out of the fabric itself. While using such an iconic image might seem like an overtly political statement as well, Gregg prefers to leave that part up to the viewer.

"Everyone in the world has some sort of recognition factor with the American flag," remarks Gregg. "So, while there are political overtones in the work, I'm not saying anything specific politically. It's a heavy object and everyone understands that and brings their own political or emotional orientation to it."

Gregg's love of objects is found in his more traditional still lifes, though these, too, are very experimental when it comes to color and composition.

"I'm trying to create color relationships and color harmonies but also tension from when the colors are keyed up," he explains. "With my backgrounds, I use the space and have it function spatially as a background but I also apply some pressure on the picture plane and the forms rather than just have it receding. The background has an active role in the function of the overall painting as well."

