

# PAULA COOPER GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## DAVID NOVROS

524 W 26th Street

May 11 – June 28, 2019

Opening Reception: 6–8pm Saturday, May 11

NEW YORK—An exhibition of work by David Novros will open at Paula Cooper Gallery on May 11th, 2019, highlighting the breadth of his artistic production. In addition to several large-scale multipartite canvases—for which the artist is most well-known—the show will explore Novros’s expansive and prolific approach to painting across a range of material and scale. Included will be painted works of copper, iron, and ceramic as well as watercolors. The show will open with a reception from 6 to 8 pm on Saturday, May 11th and remain on view through June 28th at 524 West 26th Street.

Novros creates work that pushes beyond its internal pictorial space to generate a dynamic, kinesthetic experience. Inspired by Italian frescoes, Byzantine mosaics, Paleolithic cave paintings, and other in situ artworks, his surfaces are not intended to hold the eye but rather to promote movement with a painted place. The artist explains: “I am trying to identify the poetic reality of the paintings. I don’t have any particular system. Sometimes I paint one area of a painting for years—trying to find the ‘right’ light. I keep working until the painting gives me permission to move on.”<sup>1</sup>

In *Boathouse*, 2016, a work first commissioned as a painted place, Novros employs an iterative motif of borders and right angles—both within the painted composition of each canvas as well as in their collective arrangement on the wall. Enhanced by the use of subtle tonal shifts or, alternately, bold complementary colors, the work is at once placid and buoyant. Though the artist’s technique first appears simple, on close examination its rich variation of brushwork and hue builds an elusive yet almost tangible layered depth. For his recent work *K* (2017), Novros pushes this further by once again using iridescent Murano paint and oil to achieve a luminous and radiant surface.

Beyond the canvas works, a selection of watercolors, painted Coppers, and ceramic objects explore a wide vocabulary of materials and forms. Created in the 1980s in New Mexico, Novros’s copper works are made by exploding a line charge to generate projections in the metal. The works recall Novros’s interest in Byzantine and Paleo-Christian art and reflect his fascination with the process of their creation. Novros’s porcelain and plaster *Solar Model* envisions an architectural shelter to house a mural cycle. Evocative of an atrium-style Roman house, the object relates to two new monumental canvas works, also on view, which are based on imagined views of the model’s painted interior. Made in 1975, *Portable Cave* recalls the artist’s acclaimed *portable murals*, which he began in 1965 as a way to expand his interest in painting-in-place. The work’s earthy tones and recessed space absorbs ambient light.

David Novros was born in 1941 in Los Angeles, CA, and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California in 1963. His work was first exhibited in a two-person show with Mark di Suvero in 1965 at the Park Place Gallery in New York. Novros had his first one-person shows at Park Place Gallery and Dwan Gallery the following year. His work has been exhibited in prominent venues, including the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York; the Museum of

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<sup>1</sup> Phong Bui, “In Conversation: David Novros with Phong Bui,” [The Brooklyn Rail](#), June 7, 2008.

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Modern Art, New York; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Dallas Museum of Fine Art, Dallas; and the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston. Novros was the subject of a one-person show, *Contemporary Conversations: David Novros and The Menil Collection*, in 2006. The show was part of a series of exhibitions that continues to celebrate living artists whose works are in the Menil's permanent collection. The Museum Wiesbaden (Germany), presented a one-person exhibit of Novros' work in 2013 and permanently installed his monumental piece, *Salidas* (2012-2016) in 2017. The artist currently lives and works in New York City.

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