

## RICHARD JACKSON

AB ISMS

EXPRESSIONISM

EXPANSIONISM

OPTIMISM

I was born in 1939, and so I grew up with Abstract Expressionism. I was impressed with scale. I am interested in expanding abstract painting, entertaining, developing, and realizing big ideas. Emphasis on *ideas*.

I have never thought that abstract painting was nonobjective. Abstract Expressionism is about attitude, change, and ideas. Nonobjective paintings are simply decorative. Without concepts, painting becomes another medium that is described by the materials used, like ceramics or fiber art.

I learned that more is not more; less is less. I learned to make things bigger by adding to painting. The Minimalists took things away until all that was left was decorative style, and a big explanation of what we are looking at: less to look at and more to listen to. That Rothko made the same painting for forty years is depressing, and the idea or lack of ideas makes me feel suicidal. For me it is important not to stylize or serialize painting.

I am more interested in the process than in the finished work. The work is evidence of a performance, a product of how I spend my time. I am optimistic that abstract painting can be expanded without becoming craft. I'm working on it. □

RICHARD JACKSON IS AN ARTIST BASED IN LOS ANGELES.



Richard Jackson, *The Laundry Room*, 2009, mixed media.  
Installation view, Hauser & Wirth,  
Zurich. Photo: Alberta Mayo.