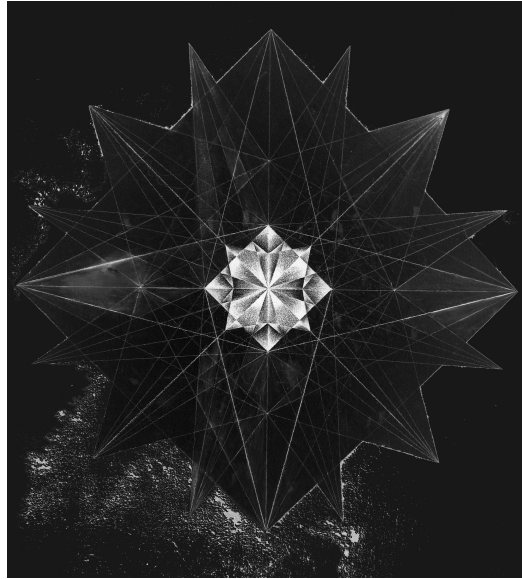


**Alexander Lee**  
**ALDÉBARAN RISING**

**Kinkead Contemporary**  
6029 Washington Blvd, Culver City, CA 90232

**February 26 – April 2, 2011**  
Opening reception: February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 6-9PM



Kinkead Contemporary is proud to present ALDÉBARAN RISING, Alexander Lee's third solo exhibition at the gallery.

ALDÉBARAN RISING ferments Lee's interest in the anthropic process and a creation myth from Tahiti, into a lyrical tale of civilization grappling with itself after a civil unrest and ground shifting transformation. The title of the exhibition, *Aldebaran* ('*Ana-muri*), refers to the brightest star in the constellation of the Taurus, which traditional Tahitian seafarers used as guiding lights to circumnavigate and populate the Pacific. In recent history, *Aldébaran* is the name of the first nuclear test detonated on July 2, 1966 by the French military, on the island of Moruroa. Here, Lee amalgamates these narratives of human discovery and ponders our contemporary relationship to astronomy and the cosmic other (with all of its fetishistic permutations) in a site-specific large-scale mural and an assemblage of drawings, paintings, and small sculptures.

The large scale wall painting will be made on site and tackle Lee's sculptural project: apprehending an undecipherable body, ferocious and sublime. The series of drawings and paintings made between 2007 and 2011 will trace the artist's arch in developing a visual vocabulary for themes close to his narrative reflection. From the geological formation and early Polynesian population of volcanic islands in the Pacific, to French colonization and deployment of its military complex, Lee chronicles the survival of a civilization confronted to its changing environment and picks up where Gauguin might have left off: *Where Do We Come From? What Are We? Where Are We Going?*

Alexander Lee studied Sculpture/New Genres at Columbia University (MFA 2002), and Interactive Telecommunications at New York University (MPS 2004). His multi-disciplinary practice spans sculpture, drawing, painting, printmaking, and more recently, a performative opera in 5 parts titled *THE TUPAPAU WITHIN* (2011). Lee lives and works in New York.

Kinkead Contemporary is a contemporary art gallery dedicated to emerging and mid-career artists. Founded by John Kinkead, the gallery's mission is to introduce new voices through an ambitious series of solo and group exhibitions.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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