

Mark Dutcher: *Havilah*



Los Angeles



Mark Dutcher, *Sylvester (Do You Wanna Funk)*, 2009, Courtesy of Steve Turner Contemporary Art (February 14 – March 21, 2009)

Mark Dutcher's first show with Steve Turner Contemporary deftly traverses the space between sculpture and painting, thrusting the artist's traditional oeuvre of homage and wistful remembrance into a more expansive expression. With titular and formal references to contemporary masters and cultural icons, the brightly hued work is fashionably Ab-Ex-meets-disco, with Dutcher's expressionistic surfaces and Twombly-esque run-on sentences saying far more than a mouthful. The artist's painterly idiom is satisfying in its multilayered resonances, and his X's do mark the spot — a portal between a Eureka moment and a disillusioning fall from grace.

– Ashley Emenegger