



Photographs by JOSHUA WHITE

MAKING MOVES: Friedrich Kunath explores artistic desires such as change, improvement and moving on in the show titled "I Have Always Been Here Before" at Blum & Poe.

Looking for paths of change, release

At Blum & Poe, Cologne-based **Friedrich Kunath's** second Los Angeles show upholds the promise of his first, in 2004, with paintings that place representational imagery against abstract atmosphere. A preoccupation with trying to fix one's position while also exploring the world carries over from his last show.

Canvases are flooded with boldly hued washes of color, leaving behind an ultra-saturated haze. Into this, the artist places simple black-and-white line-art graphics — a ladder reaching into the center of the void and leaning against nothingness, or a giant man pushing a house deeper into space and perhaps out of the picture.

Meanwhile, a taxidermy bird — a heron or perhaps an egret — stands in the middle of the gallery looking backward, apparently comfortable wearing black wingtips but perplexed by the footprints he's left behind. Kunath's works speak of the difficulties and contradictions of being a citizen of the world and perhaps more specifically of being an artist — perpetually trying to free yourself while treading a path and leaving behind a trail.

Blum & Poe, 2754 La Cienega Blvd., Culver City, (310) 836-2062, through April 8. Closed Sundays and Mondays.
www.blumandpoe.com