

# JUXTAPOZ

Art & Culture

## Four-In-One: Aaron Johnson, Nicasio Fernandez, Austin Harris and Ryan Schneider @ OTI, Los Angeles

June 05, 2020 | in Painting



Ryan Schneider

for this past April. Last weekend, those exhibitions finally opened, with limited scheduled viewing for groups of three at a time, featuring solo presentations by [Aaron Johnson](#), [Nicasio Fernandez](#), [Austin Harris](#), and [Ryan Schneider](#).



The final presentation is the inaugural exhibition of new sculptural works by Joshua Tree-based artist Ryan Schneider, who introduces carved wooden sculptures charred and painted in oil stick in a body of work called *Split Spirits*. Coming from a painting background the artist's approach to sculpting, mixes the two techniques. Using the piece of wood both as guide and blank canvas, he, in effect, drawing into the wood with an axe, chainsaw, or a torch, allowing the wood to transform naturally. Inspired by the mysticism of the desert, as well as the tradition of African or Native American art, the painted sections evoke cubist influences. Using very bold, unmixed pigments, the vibrant turquoise or red hues along with scorched sections accentuate the existing attributes, creating dramatic contrast with existing wood texture or grains. Aside from larger, totem-like pieces, *Split Spirits* include a series of smaller works that are influenced by the monumental impact of cave hand painting on the artist. —*Sasha Bogojev*

*Photo credit Flying Studio. Courtesy of Over the Influence.*