

KATHRYN
MARKEL
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FINE ARTS
EST. 1976

**KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ARTS PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION OF NEW WORK
BY ARTIST PETER STEPHENS**

You Are My Favorite Work of Art features new work by Peter Stephens in New York City
February 15 - March 23, 2024

NEW YORK, NY — January 24, 2024 — Kathryn Markel Fine Arts is excited to announce an upcoming exhibition of new paintings by Peter Stephens, titled “*You Are My Favorite Work of Art*.” It will be the artist’s first solo exhibition with the gallery and will be held at the gallery’s 179 10th Avenue location. The show will run from February 15th - March 23, 2024, with an opening reception February 17th from 3-6pm.

Stephens approaches both the titles of his paintings and exhibition with a playful lightheartedness. “*You Are My Favorite Work of Art*” is a nod to Chet Baker’s “*My Funny Valentine*,” and each painting is titled directly or indirectly from names given to colors by the commercial paint industry. These titles are sometimes amusing, usually evocative, seldom profound, often a bit sexy, and even a little head scratching at times.



The paintings are produced entirely freehand atop an underlying grid of commercial paint samples. He then approaches and explores color relationships with acrylic paint, line by line. In this body of work, Stephens finds himself especially focused on the phenomenon of optical color blending and subtleties of modulations. His freehand process is integral to the perception of these effects - they appear as the paintings develop.

While there is an intuitive discovery that happens during Stephens’ process, there are deliberate references that contribute to a tapestry of rich cultural histories. Textile and mosaic references are clear, and within each painting there are vignettes that evoke places, time, memories, and emotions.

Peter Stephens earned a BFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1981 and has since shown his work nationally and internationally. He has held solo exhibitions at Rivalry Projects, Buffalo, NY (2022), David Richard Gallery, New York, NY (2020), and Nina Freudenheim Gallery, Buffalo, NY (multiple years), amongst others. He was most recently included in a solo presentation by Rival Projects at Untitled Art Fair in Miami, Florida. His work has been placed in private and public collections worldwide, and is part of several museum collections, including Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Brooklyn Museum, and Burchfield Penney Art Center. He lives and works in Buffalo, NY.

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IMAGE CAPTION

Peter Stephens, “*Hard Candy*,” 2023, acrylic on wood, 46 x 46 in.

MEDIA CONTACT

Abbie Knight

abbie@markelfinearts.com

ABOUT KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ART

Established in 1975 with the belief that significant contemporary art can be beautiful as well as visually and intellectually rigorous, Kathryn Markel Fine Art is committed to the experience of discovery and collecting at the highest level. Committed to serving a deep network of collectors and institutions, Kathryn Markel Fine art showcases a diverse array of primary market artists, unified by excellence in their craft, compelling intellectual framework, and a love of the art-making process. <https://www.markelfinearts.com/>

20th Street

529 W 20th St. 6W

New York, NY 10011

10th Avenue

179 10th Avenue

New York, NY 10011