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ERIC BLUM Foreign Parts



Untitled No. 686, 2013
Ink, silk, and beeswax on panel, 53 x 71 inches

November 14-December 21, 2013
Artist Reception, Thursday, November 14, 6:00-8:00pm

New York, NY—October 12, 2013—Kathryn Markel Fine Arts is thrilled to present *Foreign Parts* a series of new paintings by abstract painter Eric Blum.

Eric Blum’s paintings are firmly rooted in the abstract tradition, but he subverts the genre by introducing shapes that hint at situations and narratives that remain just out of reach to the viewer. Blum’s method—a marriage of dissimilar imagery with semi-transparent washes of ink and sheets of wax infused silk—contributes to that ambiguity. By operating under, what Blum terms, a “willful blindness” to the end result, he cuts away and transplants disparate components from different works. The resultant panels are mysterious and suggest prisms of light, stones of a riverbed, or the undulating forms of ink dissipating in water.

Blum’s newest works represent a marked shift away from the weight and dimension of his previous paintings towards a more refined and restrained practice. What was previously soft-edged and amorphous is now fractured, rectilinear and sliced; the work betrays a greater sense of immediacy than was previously expressed. His primary preoccupation lies with the means by which “random elements” engage one another and form relationships. His panels are luminous with tangible depth; his palette soft and diffuse. The works are impactful not only for their grace and poetry, but also for their tremendous power.

Eric Blum was born in Fresno, CA, grew up in Los Angeles, and currently lives and works in New York, NY. He was educated at UCLA and University of the Arts London- Central St. Martins. His work has been shown at the Contemporary Art Center in Cincinnati, OH; the Albright Knox Gallery of Buffalo, NY, Boulder, Colorado’s Museum of Contemporary Art and many others. Blum has been awarded grants from the New York Foundation for the Arts and the Pollock-Krasner Foundation. His work is in private collections around the world.

Kathryn Markel Fine Arts, Chelsea is located at 529 W. 20th St., Ste. 6W, New York, NY 10011
Gallery Hours are Tues.-Fri. 10:00am-6:00pm, Sat. 11:00am-6:00pm
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