

GOWEN CONTEMPORARY

GENEVA, Switzerland

MARTIN KLINE

Once Upon a Dream

Artgenève – Salon International d'Art, Geneva

25-29 April 2012

Gowen Contemporary is delighted to present an exhibition of paintings by the American artist Martin Kline. This is Kline's first solo show in a European art fair.

Over the past two decades, Kline has created an extensive set of works beginning with his earliest drawings and watercolours in the middle of the 1980s and continuing through his most recent encaustic paintings and cast-metal sculptures. The encaustic paintings are at the heart of Kline's work. Among the oldest of painting techniques, this process involves combining wax with coloured pigments. Essentially dormant for much of the modern era, encaustic painting was revived in the post-war period beginning in the 1950s, and reinvigorated by such artists as Jasper Johns, Brice Marden and Lynda Benglis. Kline has triumphed in adopting and adapting the encaustic process, creating a highly nuanced style of abstraction. His paintings and sculptures, that he describes as 'physical works of growth,' *on one hand (...) breathe, grow, multiply, and reproduce; they seem to be alive and are generative, constantly moving. On the other, they are calm and contemplative, evoking a frozen moment of a growing organism* (M. Price, 2012).

Sometimes questioning the notion of American painting, occasionally containing an overtly political dimension, or bringing to mind associations of science gone horribly wrong, Kline's work is above all a reflection on nature and explores the relationship between nature and culture through emotional experience and intellectual research, as well as artistic practice.

Well versed in contemporary art and art history (...) and while indebted to some degree to his predecessors, (...) Kline's approach is inherently dialectical, crossing boundaries of different media, combining seemingly opposed Eastern and Western cultural sensibilities, and eliciting Romantic, pre-Darwinian notions of nature while also alluding to knowledge drawn from modern science (M. Price, 2012).

Martin Kline is currently having his first major retrospective at the New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, Connecticut (March 17 – June 17, 2012).

Martin Kline was born in 1961 in Norwalk, Ohio, and studied at the Ohio University, Athens, OH. He currently lives and works in Rhinebeck, NY. Kline has exhibited extensively throughout the United States. Solo exhibitions include 'Martin Kline. Romantic Nature', New Britain Museum of American Art, New Britain, Connecticut (current); 'Abstraction Rooted Into the World', Gowen Contemporary, Geneva (2011); 'Martin Kline. Recent Painting and Sculpture,' Haggerty Museum of Art, Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (2007); Meredith Long & Company, Houston, Texas (2008); Jason Mc Coy, New York (2006, 2005, 2004); Marlborough Gallery, New York (2002, 2000); Stephen Mazoh, New York (1994, 1992). Selected group exhibitions include the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge, MA (2005); the Museo Nacional Centro de Arte reina Sofia, Madrid (2004); The Cleveland Museum of Art, Cleveland (2003); The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (2003); the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston (2003); Gagosian Gallery, Chelsea, New York (2000); the Guggenheim Museum Soho, New York (1993); The Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice and New York (1993); Leo Castelli Gallery, New York (1993); Michael Walls Gallery, New York, (1990 and 1991); the Coos Art Museum, Coos Bay, Oregon (1986). Kline's works can be found in many museum collections including the Albertina Museum, Vienna; the Brooklyn Museum of Art, New York; the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta, Georgia; the Kennedy Museum, Ohio University, Athens, OH; the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX; the Portland Art Museum, Oregon; the Triton Foundation, Gooreind-Wuustwezel, Belgium; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven, CT.

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