

EMIL LUKAS

The Distance of Time

Jan 10, 2023 - Feb 12, 2023



“ The gallery in Garzon is intimate while having two long vantage points from the front entrance. For this reason I want to show two types of work, ‘Thread’ paintings and ‘Bubble’ paintings. I want to use the space to make the viewer aware of distance and time. A ‘Thread’ painting from a distance gives no information of what it physically is or how it was made, from close up it reveals everything. ‘Bubble’ paintings saturate the eye with color and or contrast causing a completely different optic event, using perception over time. “ Emil Lukas

The work of Emil Lukas (Pittsburgh, 1964) can be regarded as a sustained attempt at challenging time and charming our gaze as a way of posing questions rather than offering answers. Therefore, we will tackle the issue of the ability and the power of this human production of becoming something so special. What can art tell us? Or, perhaps, we may go even further and risk an answer regarding the relationship between art and life.

In his work, Emil Lukas condenses a way of thinking, a will to be in the world that has cemented a unique voice in contemporary art. His aesthetically and artistically challenging body of work features existential concerns that turn our gaze toward ourselves. He expressly refuses to explain his pieces, as they exist and project their power in the realm of the real.

His material production is process-oriented. He uses accessible, albeit uncommon, materials to develop a body of work of an abstract nature that follows a cumulative, experimental logic. His methodology stems from a detailed study of the materials’ plastic possibilities and their symbolic potential, along with extensive research on human perception. His vocation has led him to experiment with indeterminate processes and randomness, but also to develop pieces where the position of all the elements involved is decided with meticulous precision.

Lukas explores different forms of abstraction, and his artistic production is in line with that of the artistic movement concerned with perception-related phenomena, whose work seeks to provide a kind of sensitive knowledge and profound physical experiences of transcendental vocation. Through his art, he poses questions and stirs sensations which can be read as both a critical reflection on the mechanisms used to produce images or as metaphors of more universal existential issues.

As a critique to the hypermediated world of images, his aesthetic contribution conveys genuine concerns that nurture and speak to the beholder. Nevertheless, if visitors come craving the immediate impact of advertisements, they are in for a frustrating ride. The appreciation of his work demands time to slow down the eye and prepare oneself physically, mentally, and emotionally in order to venture into the universes of a creator committed to his language and the times he happens to live in.

Every series or body of work included in the exhibition applies a technique or procedure linked to a material that implies some kind of hands-on expertise, a know-how that is at the core of the research that Lukas conducts in his studio in Stockertown, Pennsylvania. Technologically speaking, his work poses challenges in line with the artist’s interests: the act of doing something implicitly communicates a way of understanding art and the world. Art and craft come together in series which amalgamate discursively within his universe.

The pieces comprised in the series entitled “Thread Paintings” were created by stretching out thousands of meters of colored threads which were placed by hand over a loom system that is the frame of the piece itself. Lukas creates different patterns: grids conformed by thousands of lines that radiate from an aired center toward a denser perimeter, where the central negative space becomes a center that emits light along with vertical specters that seem to vibrate when the eye pierces them. His work with various densities produces a powerful optical illusion of volume when beheld from a distance. Energetic and fascinating, these pieces are the threshold across which there is a space where light, color and retina meet, in a sort of optical emotion the artist communicates to the beholder.

Emil Lukas’ work addresses universal concerns. His pieces offer a sensitive look at the world through an accumulation of experiences. The internal power of his art dazzles with a beauty that is not an end in itself, but a means to glimpse at issues that transcend us. Devoid of pompous speeches, his sensitivity and honesty put us in an essentially human and universal place.

Martin Craciun (Montevideo, 1980)



view from exhibition

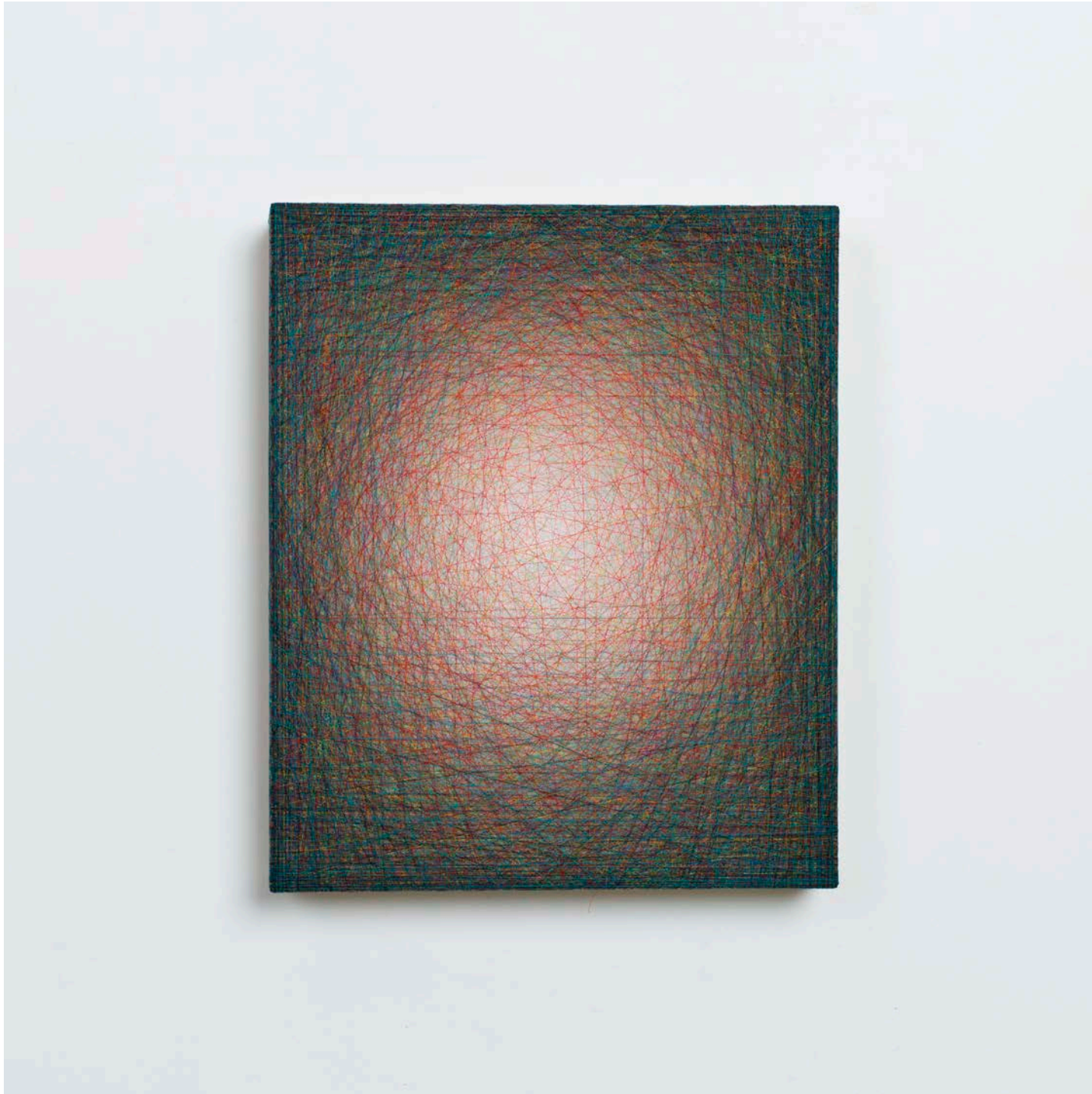
Emil Lukas #2104 *Formation, 2022*

thread over wood frame with plaster, paint and nails

76.2 x 76.2 x 8.2 cm (30 x 30 x 3.2 inn)

USD 40 000





Emil Lukas

*#2026 Vacuum, 2021
thread over wood frame with
plaster, paint and nails
52.0x 43.1 x 8.9 cm (20.5 x 17 x 3.5)
Sold*

Emil Lukas #2138 *Tug*, 2022
paint on plaster in aluminum frame
52.0 x 60.0 x 6.9 cm (0.5 x 23.6 x 2.7 in)
USD 25 000





Emil Lukas #1631 off edge
paint on plaster in aluminum frame
52.0 x 60.0 x 6.9 cm (0.5 x 23.6 x 2.7 in)
USD 25 000





Emil Lukas #1595 "difference of one, 2018
paint on plaster in aluminum frame
60.9 x 50.8 x 5.0 cm (24 x 20 x 27 in)
USD 25 000





Emil Lukas #2102, 2022

thread over wood frame with plaster, paint and nails

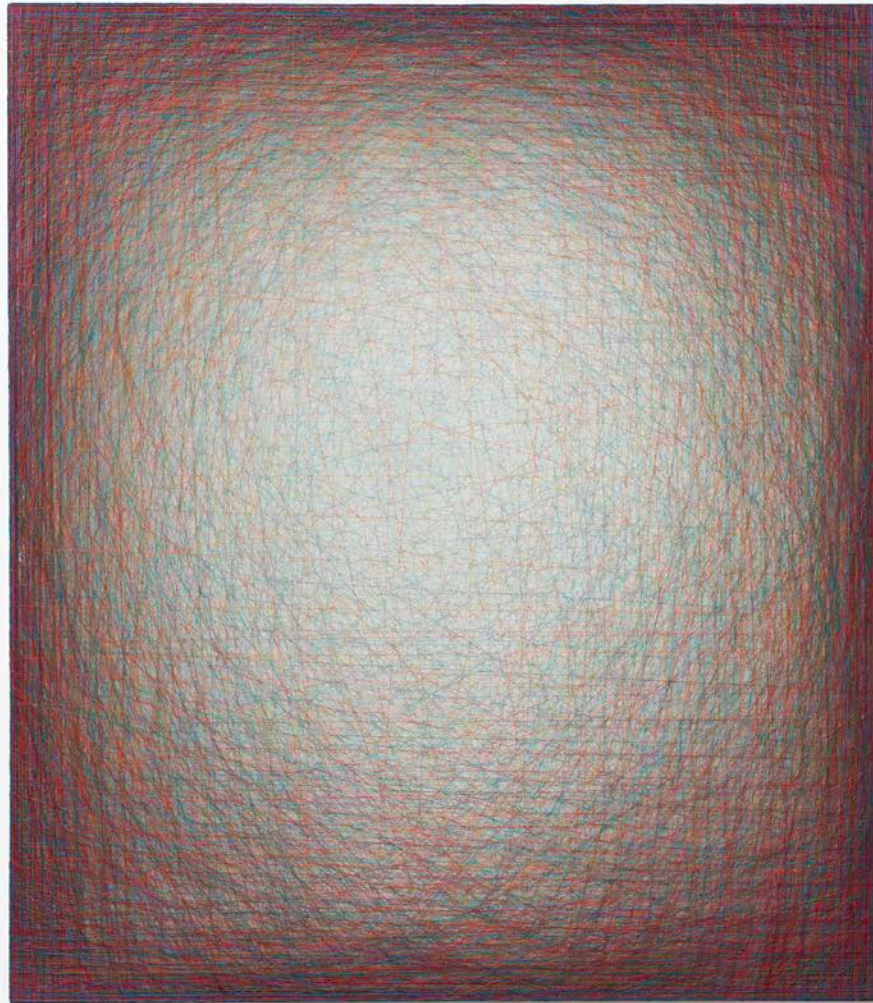
33 x 33 x 5.7 cm (30 x 30 x 3.2 inn)

USD 25 000



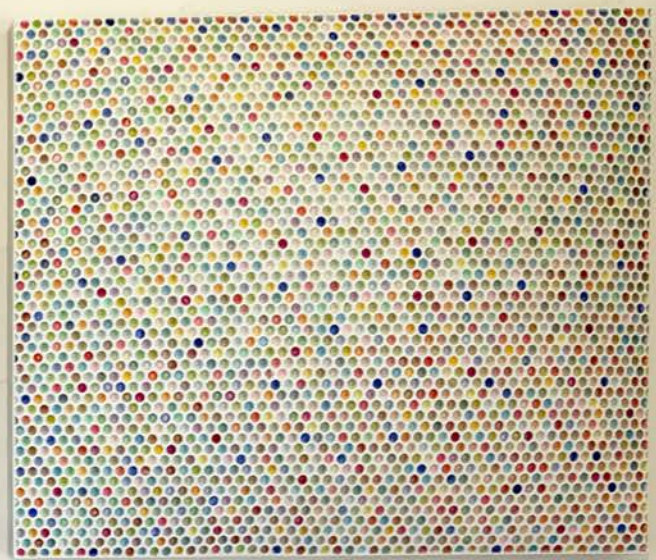






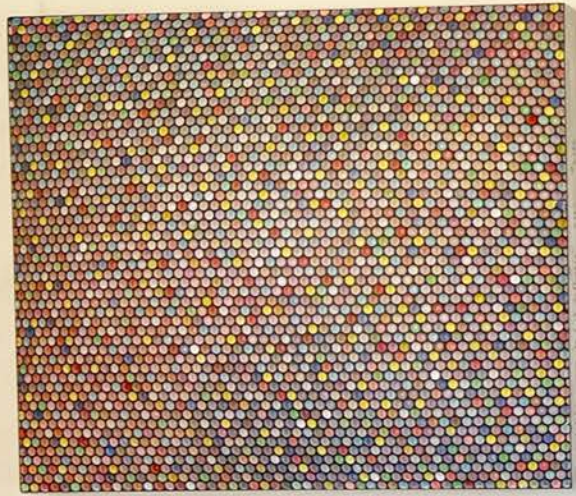
Emil Lukas

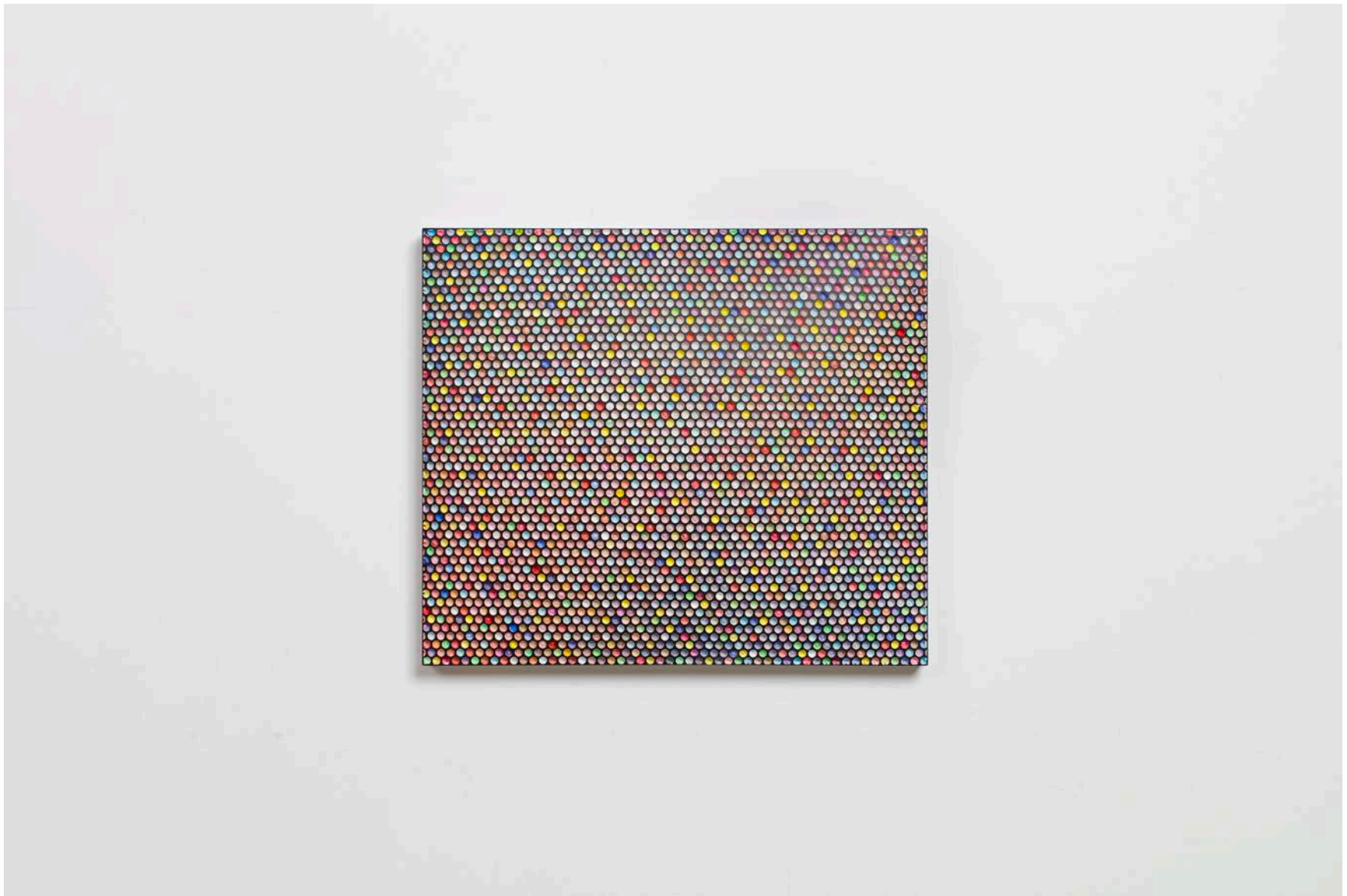
#2089 One, Two, Six, 2021
thread over wood frame with
plaster, paint and nails
79.3 x 69.2 x 7.6 cm
(31.2 x 27.2 x 3 in)
USD 40 000



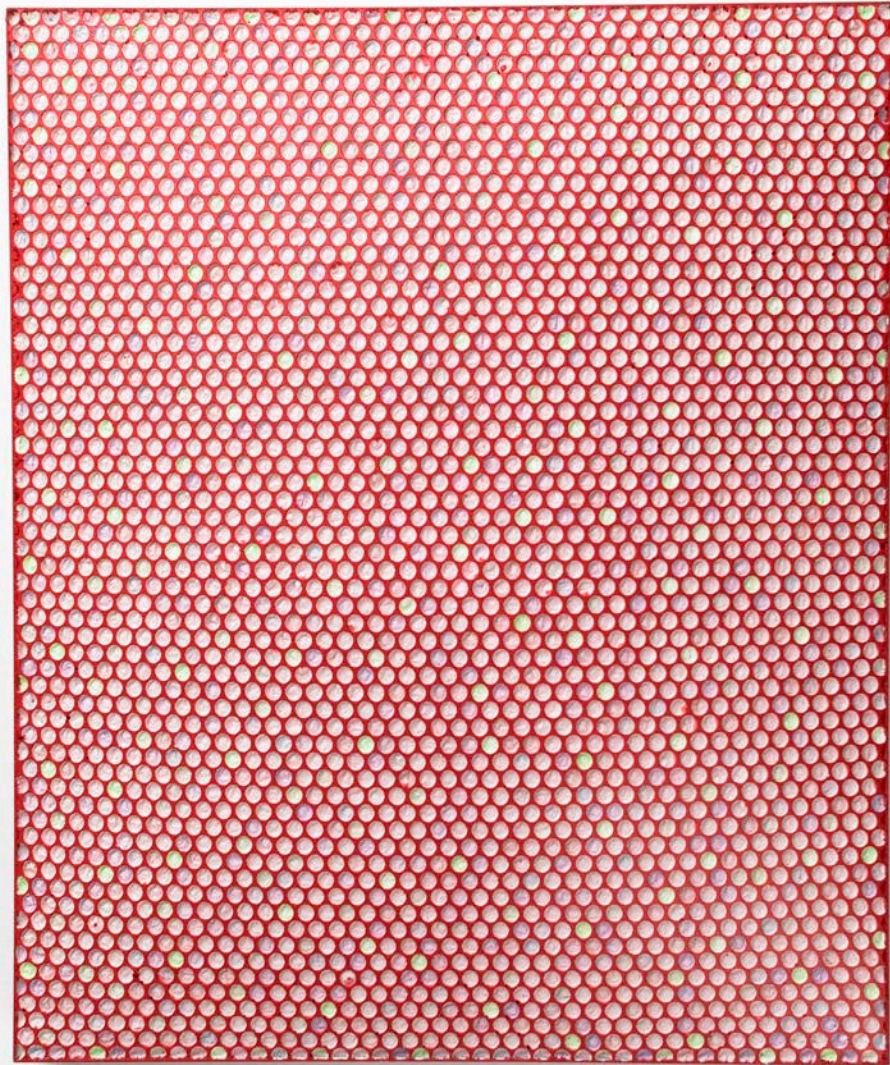


Emil Lukas #2134 *Impossibility of Even Expanse*, 2022
paint on plaster in aluminum frame
52.0 x 60.0 x 7.6 cm (20.5 x 23.6 x 3 in)
USD 25 000





Emil Lukas #2132 *Mutual Influence*, 2022
paint on plaster in aluminum frame
52.0 x 60.0 x 7.6 cm (20.5 x 23.6 x 3 in)
USD 25 000



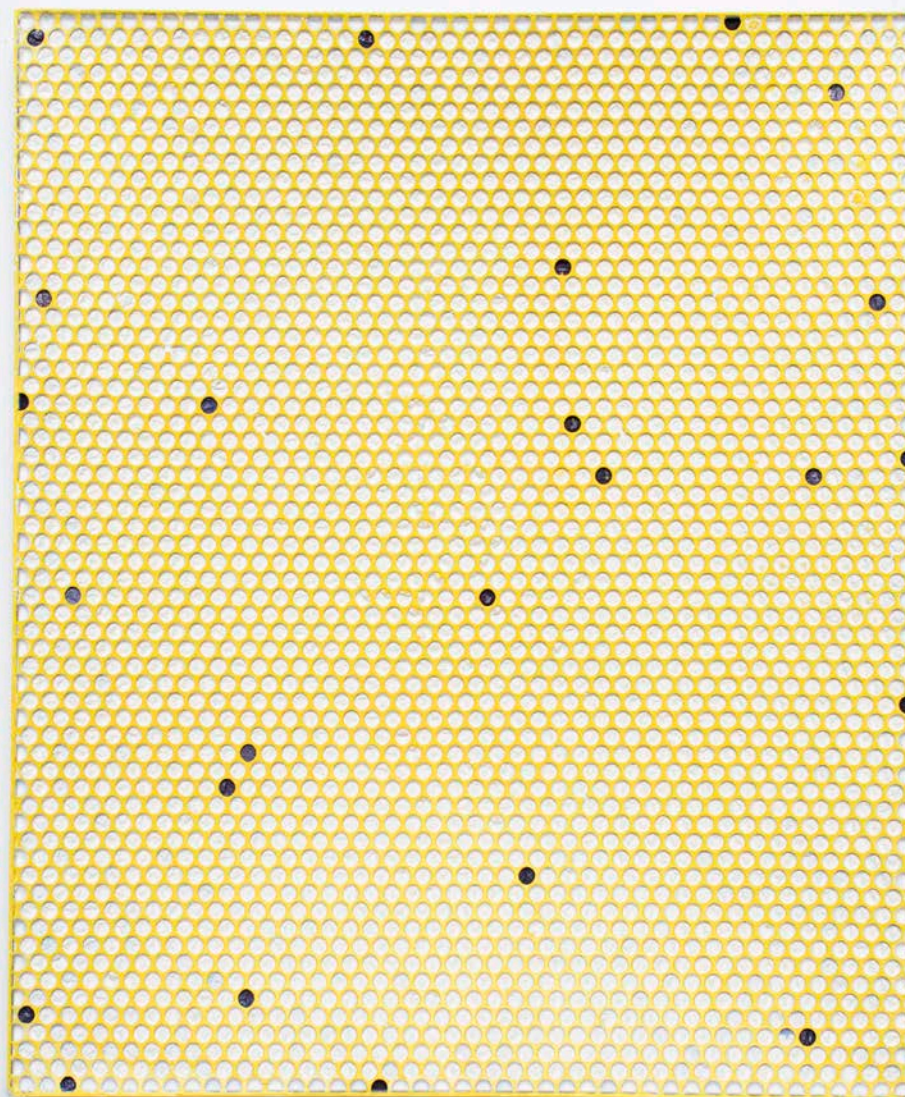
Emil Lukas

#1627 popping in and out of, 2018
paint on plaster in aluminum frame

60.9 x 50.8 x 11.43 cm

(24 x 2 x 4.5 in)

USD 25 000



Emil Lukas

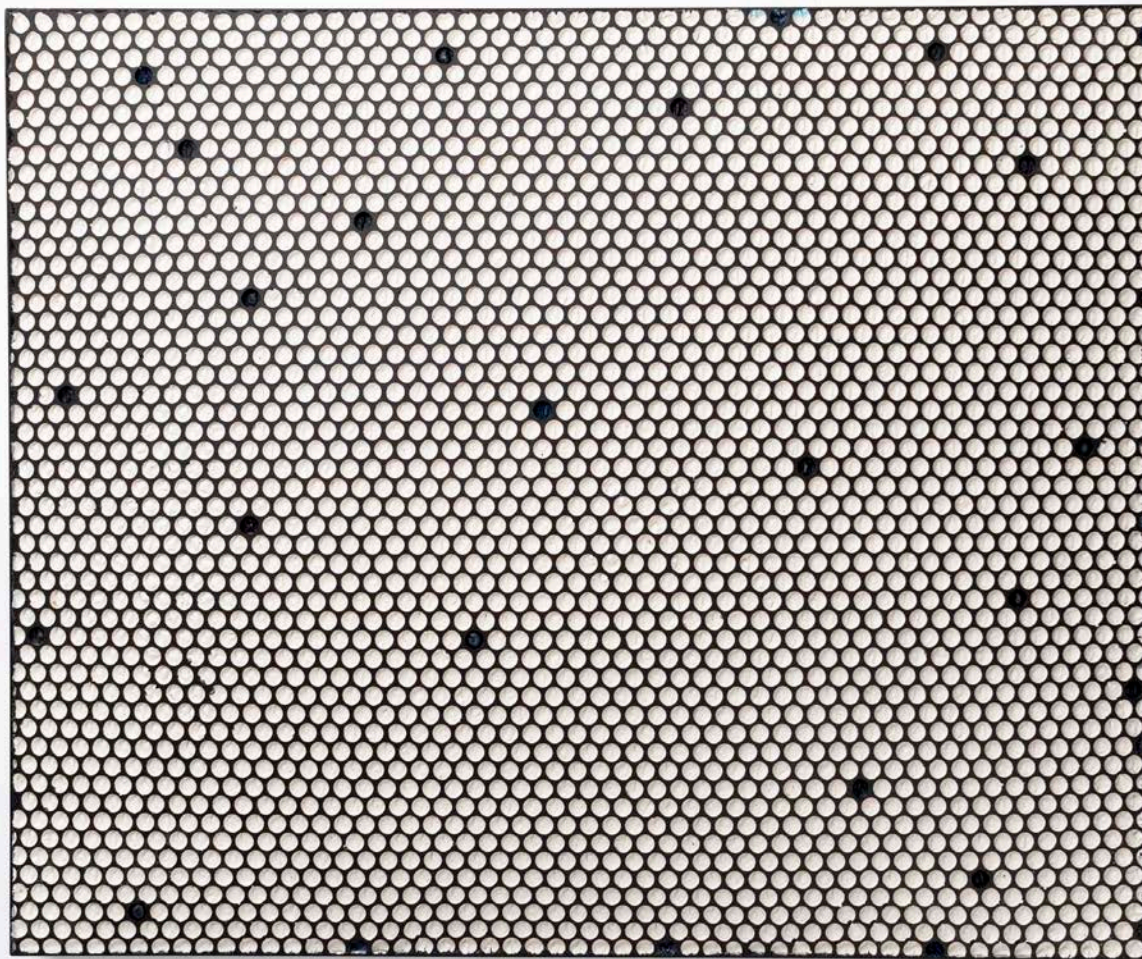
#1597 on, in, 2018

paint on plaster in aluminum frame

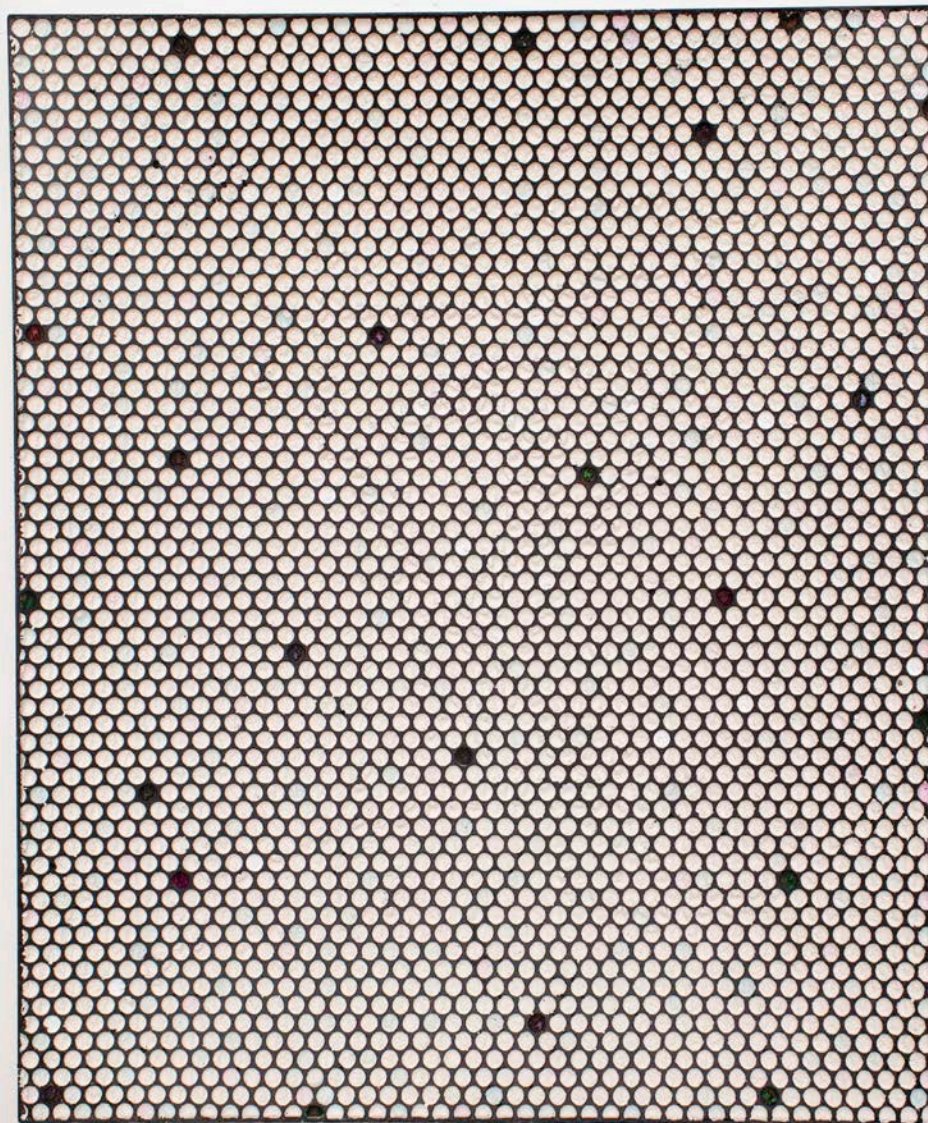
60.9 x 50.8 x 5.08 cm

(24 x 20 x 2 in)

USD 25 000



Emil Lukas
#1623 shot formation, 2018
paint on plaster
in aluminum frame
50.8 x 60.9 x 11.4 cm
(20 x 24.0 x 4.5 in)
USD 25 000



Emil Lukas

#1634 in out test, 2018

paint on plaster in aluminum frame

60.96 x 50.8 x 10.16 cm

(24 x 20 x 4 in)

USD 25 000

Emil Lukas

Born in 1964 in Pittsburgh, United States.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1964, Emil Lukas has exhibited throughout the United States and abroad. Solo museum shows include "Emil Lukas: Connection to the Curious" at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum in Ridgefield, CT (2005); "Emil Lukas" at The Weatherspoon Museum, Greensboro, NC (2005); "Things with Wings," The Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, PA (2005); and "Moderate Climate and the Bitter Bison" at the Hunterdon Museum, Hunterdon, NJ (2008). In 2016, a solo exhibition of his work was held at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA. Lukas' work has been featured in group shows at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris (1995), Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea di Trento e Rovereto (1996); Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (1998); Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City (1999); American Academy, Rome (2000); The Drawing Center, New York (2002); and SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah (2012-13). His work is in important private and public collections, including the Panza Collection, Italy; the Dakis Joannou Collection, Greece; Margulies Collection, Miami; Allentown Art Museum, PA; the Anderson Collection at Stanford University; Baltimore Museum of Art; Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; San José Museum of Art; UBS Art Collection; and Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC.



SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

"Emil Lukas: The Narration of Light," Galleria Gracis, Milan, 20 September – 20 October; Photo & Contemporary, Turin, 5 November – 24 September

2020-21

"Emil Lukas: All Connected, Like It or Not," Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, 5 December 2020 – 16 January 2021

2019

"Emil Lukas," Sperone Westwater, New York, 9 January – 23 February

2018

"Emil Lukas: Twin Orbit," Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, 5 May – 16 June

2017

"Emil Lukas," Studio La Città, Verona, 12 October – 18 November
"Emil Lukas," Sperone Westwater, New York, 7 January – 11 February

2016

"Emil Lukas," Morris Gallery at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia, 14 January – 10 April

2015

"Recent Works," Photo & Contemporary, Torino, 15 May – 30 June
"Emil Lukas: Ringing of Distant Events," Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, 21 March – 9 May

2014-15

"Emil Lukas: Large Curtain," Studio La Citta, Verona, 13 December 2014 – 7 February 2015
2014

"Emil Lukas," Sperone Westwater, New York, 9 January – 22 February

2014

"Emil Lukas," Sperone Westwater, New York, 9 January – 22 February

2012-13

"Emil Lukas: Curvature," Studio La Città s.r.l., Verona, 10 November 2012 – 9 February 2013

2011

"in, on, un," Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, 21 May – 1 July
"Emil Lukas: Larva, Bubble, and Thread," Sperone Westwater, New York, 25 February – 26 March

2010

"Recent Works," Photo & Contemporary Gallery, Torino, November – January

2009-10

"Accumulate and Dissolve," Gian Enzo Sperone, Sent, 29 December 2009 – 31 March 2010

2008-09

"Titration," Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, 13 December 2008 – 31 January 2009

2008

"Moderate Climate and the Bitter Bison," Hunterdon Museum, Hunterdon, 10 May – 20 June

2007

"One to the Other," Hosfelt Gallery, New York, 15 September – 27 October 2006-07
"Recent Sculptures and Related Paintings," Hosfelt Gallery, San Francisco, 2 December 2006 – 20 January 2007

2005

"Things with Wings," The Mattress Factory, Pittsburgh, September – December
"Emil Lukas: Connection to the Curious," The Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, 10 July – 9 October
"Emil Lukas," The Weatherspoon Museum, Greensboro, July – September 2003
"Developmental Years," Gallery Otto, Bologna, March – April

2002

Marcel Sitcoske Gallery, San Francisco, September – October
Starks Gallery, New York, 2 February – 2 March

2001

"Emil Lukas: Moment of Process" and "Kidspac," MASS MoCA, September – December
Haines Gallery, San Francisco, May – June
"Exploring the Interior," Galerie Lucien Durand Le Gaillard, Paris, March – May
"New Works," Galerie Schroeder, Cologne, March – May
"Marks that Make Themselves," Grossman Gallery at Lafayette College, Easton, February – March

2000

Galleria Otto, Bologna, October Spence School, New York, September – October
"The Use of Evidence," Gorney Bravin & Lee, New York, 25 May – 30 June

1998

"Story Without Words," Haines Gallery, San Francisco Galerie Schroder, Cologne

1997

Studio la Citta, Verona, April
Haines Gallery, San Francisco

1996

Bravin Post Lee, New York

1995

Studio la Citta, Verona
"The Use of Evidence," Art Museum of The
University of South Florida, Tampa
Haines Gallery, San Francisco

1994

Bravin Post Lee, New York,
17 November – 23 December
Tom Solomon's Garage, Los Angeles

1993

Studio la Citta, Verona,
2 October – 20 November
John Post Lee Gallery,
New York, 4-27 February

1992

Thomas Solomon's Garage, Los Angeles
Galerie Nova, Pontresina

1990

Althea Viafora Gallery, New York

1989

Mendelson Gallery, Pittsburgh

1988

Pinta Galleria d'Arte Contemporanea, Genova

1987

Mendelson Gallery, Pittsburgh

1986

Mendelson Gallery, Pittsburgh

1985

Meadville Council on the Arts, Meadville

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2022-23

"A Point Stretched: Views on Time," San José
Museum of Art, San José, CA, 4 November 2022
– 9 July 2023

2022

".RE" Palazzo Reale, Palermo,
22 April – 31 October
"50 Yeas, a Day: Studio la Città, a Story,"
curated by Marco Meneguzzo, Piero
Atchugarry Gallery, Miami, 2 April – 30 July

2021-22

"Out of the Frame," Studio La Città, Verona,
11 December 2021 – 5 February 2022

2021

"Map and Territory: Environmental Art from
the Panza Collection," Hauser & Wirth, St.
Moritz, 9 July – 3 October
"WOOD WORKS: Raw, Cut, Carved, Covered,"
Sperone Westwater, New York, 4 June – 27
August

2020

"Color & Complexity: 30 Years at Durham
Press," Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA,
19 January – 3 May

2019-20

"Can It Really Be 20 Years Already? Art in
Our Times, Contemporary Masters, and
Philanthropy," The Margulies Collection at the
Warehouse, Miami, 15 October 2019 – 25 April
2020

2018

"W.W.W. – What Walls Want," Marignana Arte
Gallery, Venice, 23 May – 15 September
2017-18

2017-18

"Sculpture, Painting, and Video," The
Margulies
Collection at the WAREHOUSE, Miami, 25
October 2017 – 28 April 2018

2017

"The End of Utopia: Jacob Hashimoto, Emil
Lukas," Studio La Città, Palazzo Flanginni,
Venice, 13 May – 30 July

2015

"La percezione del futuro. La Collezione Panza
a Perugia," Galleria Nazionale dell'Umbria,
and Museo civico di Palazzo della Penna,
Perugia, 20 June – 8 November
"On Paper: Spin, Crinkle, Pluck,"
The Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore,
19 April – September 2

2014

"Prospect 2014," Museum of Contemporary Art
San Diego, LaJolla, 22 February – 30 April
2012-13
"Stretching the Limits,"
SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah,
22 October 2012 – 3 February 2013

2012

"Tra Natura e Spirito: Omaggio a Giuseppe
Panza di Biumo," Galleria San Fedele, Milan,
29 October – 21 November
"Look Both Ways," Hosfelt Gallery,
San Francisco, 8 September – 6 October

2011

"Nel Frattempo (Meanwhile),"
Mercato della Frutta, Valeggio sul Mincio (VR),
23 September – 16 October

2010

"State of Mind," Lucca Center of Contemporary
Art, Panza Collection, Lucca, April – August

"In Full Color," Hosfelt Gallery, New York,
January – March

2008

"Group Show," Mendelson Gallery Pittsburgh,
May – July

2007

"Whole Parts," Sam Francis Gallery,
Santa Monica

2006

"Material Abuse,"

Caren Golden Fine Art, New York

"Group Show," Bravin Lee Programs, New York,
June – July

"Studio in the Park," Riverside Park Fund Art
Project, New York, May – September

"Summer Group Show," Marlborough Chelsea, New
York, May – July

2004

"Paintings that Paint Themselves,"

Kresge Art Museum, East Lansing, September
– November, Germantown Academy Arts

Center Gallery, Fort Washington

"Challenged Horizons," Gallery 31 North, Glen
Gardner, January – March

2002

"The Drawing Center's 25th Anniversary
Exhibition," New York, 21 September – 25
October

"Made by Nature," Dorsky Gallery, Long Island City,
September – October

"Group Show," Gorney Bravin & Lee, New York,
15 March – 20 April

"Is the Medium the Message?: Contemporary
Art from the Permanent Collection," Museum
of Art, San José, CA, 2 March – 2 June

"Officina America," Galleria d'Arte Moderna
di Bologna, Imola; Museo di San Domenico,
Censea; Ex-Pescheria, Rimini; Palazzo

dell'Arengo, Ascoli Pisceno, January – March

2001

"New Prints 2001," International Print Center,
New York

"Lafayette Faculty Exhibition," Grossman
Gallery at Lafayette College, Easton,
20 October – 8 December

2000

Chiesa di S. Antonio, Breno (BS), November
Rocca di S. Giorgio, Orzinuovi (BS), October
Spazio Mostre del Vittoriale, Gardone Riviera
(BS), September

"Dello Spirituale nell'Arte," Torre Avogadro,
Lumezane Pieve (BS), July

"The Panza di Biumo Collection – Works from
the 80's and 90's," American Academy, Rome,
March, Galerie Lucien Durand Le Gaillard,
Paris

"Life Cycles," South Eastern Center for
Contemporary Arts (SECCA), Winston-Salem,
18 February – 21 May

1999

"Gallery Artists," Gorney Bravin & Lee, New
York

"Morbida Quiete e La Notte," Studio La Citta,
Verona

"Abstract Painting Once Removed," Kemper
Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City

1998

"Abstract Painting Once Removed,"
Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston,
3 October – 6 December

"Interior Landscapes," from the Collection
of Cliff Diver, Delaware Art Museum,
Wilmington, 21 April – 12 July, Bravin Post Lee
Gallery,
New York, February

"Landscape & Memory,"
Haines Gallery, San Francisco

1997

"Human Nature," The Work Space, New York
"Onomatopoeia," Studio la Citta, Verona

"Obsession + Devotion," Haines Gallery,
San Francisco, 15 October – 15 November
"Le Jardin Complice de l'Art,"

Foundation d'Art Contemporain Daniel et
Florence Guerlain, Les Mesnuls

1996

"The Collection of Panza di Biumo,"

Museo di arte moderna e contemporanea
di Trento e Rovereto, Palazzo delle Albere,
Rovereto (Trento)

"Painting in an Expanding Field,"

Ursan Gallery, Bennington

"Heineskjærning Og Zenit," Galerie Zenit,
Frederiksberg, Studio la Citta, Verona

1995

"La Belle e la Bête,"

Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris

"Up the Garden Path,"

The Work Space, New York "From Nature,"

Haines Gallery, San Francisco, 4 May – 17 June

"A Drawing," Bravin Post Lee, New York

"Recent Work," Heines Gallery,
San Francisco, 1994

"60 Drawings from Art Hotel,"

The Drawing Room, Amsterdam

"Possible Things," Bardamu Gallery, New York

"Critical Mass," Yale University, New Haven
and The McKinney Ave Contemporary, Dallas,
5 December – 21 December

"Inner Circle," Tom Solomon's Garage,
Los Angeles, 1993

"Between," John Post Lee Gallery, New York

"Windows and Doors," Holly Solomon, New
York

"Hyper-Cathexis," Stux Gallery, New York

"Major Medical," City without Walls, Newark

"Painting as Paradigm," Stark Gallery, New
York

"Group Show," Margulies|Taplin, Miami

1992

"New Address," Muranushi-Lederman,
New York

"The Hole is Part of the Sum," Micheal Klein
Gallery, New York

"Collector's Choice," Ruth Vered Gallery,
East Hampton

"10 Steps," Horodner Romley Gallery,
New York

1991-92

"Casual Ceremony," White Columns, New York,
13 December 1991 – 13 January 1992

1991

"Ornament," John Post Lee Gallery, New York

"James Hyde, Emil Lukas, Vik Muniz,"
Mendelson Gallery

"Benefit Show," White Columns, New York

"A Question of Paint,"

Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Buffalo

"Works on Paper," Paula Allen Gallery, New
York

"Small Works," 80 Washington Square East
Gallery

1989

"Selection 46," Drawing Center, New York
1988

Mendelson Galleria d'Arte, Genova

1987

Pinta Galleria d'Arte, Genova

"New Attitudes: Recent Pennsylvania
Abstraction," Southern Allegheny Museum,
Pittsburgh

"Pittsburgh Now 8 Artists," Three Rivers Arts
and Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh

1985

"Spring Exhibition," Erie Art Museum, Erie

COLLECTIONS

Allentown Art Museum, Allentown, PA

Anderson Collection, Stanford University

Baltimore Museum of Art

Comcast Technology Center, Philadelphia

Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art,
Bentonville, AK

Dakis Joannou Collection, Greece

Denver Art Museum

Fondation d'Art Contemporain Daniel et

Florence Guerlain, Paris

Henry Art Gallery at the University of
Washington, Seattle

Margulies Collection

Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego

The Norton Museum, Shreveport, LA

Panza Collection, Italy

Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts,
Philadelphia

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art

San José Museum of Art

UBS Art Collection

Weatherspoon Art Museum, Greensboro, NC

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The distance of time

Open to the public

January 10, 2023 - February 12, 2023

GARZÓN

Camino a Sierras de Garzon 5
20400, Uruguay
+598 95 646 696

www.pieroatchugarry.com
kgondo@pieroatchugarry.com