

## GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

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High Line Nine, 27<sup>th</sup> Street and 10<sup>th</sup> Ave

## RICHARD ORIENT

June 14 – 30, 2022

Opening Reception: Wednesday, June 15, 6-8:30PM

We are pleased to announce our solo exhibition for painter **Richard Orient** at George Billis Gallery's Pop Up at High Line Nine, 507 West 27 Street in the Chelsea Art District, June 14 – 30, 2022. An opening reception for the artist will be held on Wednesday, June 15 from 6-8:30PM.

Richard Orient has spent the last two years living and working at his home in rural Dutchess County, New York. This country setting has continually inspired him, and the focus of this show of recent work is the landscape and woods outside his studio there. He describes the setting: "There are two stands of woods out the door - one to the left and up the hill to the north, the other south and down to the field below. These wooded hills greet me every day. Pristine woods of soaring vertical trunks and thickets of tangled branches surround me. And I have observed these woods throughout the last eight seasons. I'm captivated by this daily seeing.

The earlier works in this show are of wooded scenes, painted by the artist in his usual medium, oil on canvas, focusing his gaze on distinct areas. Tree trunks predominate; little sky is seen. Light and shadow caress the vertical shafts, and a stillness pervade these paintings. Later works in the show shift focus to deeper woods and dense thickets. These paintings are filled with branches and trunks and tangled vines and begin to verge on the abstract. This inspired Orient to push further into an abstract series of drawings, later paintings, of an accumulation of tangled lines. Using acrylic and shellac ink, he created mazes of lines overlapping and crisscrossing, evoking the intricacies and dense ness of the wooded thickets. The artist observes: "As the pandemic continued and complicated our lives, I found the woods to be an anchor, and painting the stillness and tangle of nature, both representational and abstracted, a soothing and inspirational experience."

Richard Orient received his BFA from Carnegie Mellon University in 1977 and has lived and painted in the New York City area since then. His work has been exhibited in galleries and museums across the country. This is his 13th solo show at George Billis Gallery in New York City.

The George Billis Gallery was located in Manhattan in the Chelsea Art District for 25 years, and relocated to Westport, CT due to the pandemic. George Billis Gallery opened its second location in the Culver City Art District in Los Angeles in 2004. We are pleased to be invited to showcase Derek Buckner's paintings at High Line Nine, 507 West 27 Street at 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Chelsea.

For additional information or high resolution images, please visit the gallery's website at [GeorgeBillis.com](http://GeorgeBillis.com) or contact the gallery at [gallery@georgebillis.com](mailto:gallery@georgebillis.com) or 212.645.2621

