

GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

Contact: Jaine Heggie

STEVE HICKS

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JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 27, 2016

For Release: Immediately



Hot Town, acrylic, charcoal, tape and trace on canvas, 34x40"

George Billis Gallery is pleased to announce Steve Hicks and his work at the New York location. This exhibition will run from **January 26 through February 27th, 2016**. The **opening reception** will be held at the George Billis Gallery located at 525 West 26th Street between 10th and 11th avenues on **Thursday, January 28 from 6-8pm**.

In this series of paintings Hicks continues his move from a literal to a more metaphorical documentation of architectural space. Beginning with cues from Mondrian, Klein, Pollock and Ryman, Hicks used a fundamental grammar of line and plane to generate a painting language that lead to unexpected conclusions.

His restricted syntax gave way to more expansive possibilities cultivating oppositions between gesture and geometry as well as intention and accident. More recently De Kooning's, "black" paintings of the late 1940's and white "ribbon" paintings of the early 1980's have had a particular influence on the paintings exhibited here as Hicks sheds the orthogonal in favor of a more organic space.

The work also draws from both Hicks' former architectural study and practice as well as to his even earlier, exposure to Sumi-e painting. Calligraphic lines and shapes recombine into patterns of energy that move through the field of the canvas. Traces of line and plane become the equivalents of doubt, memory and time. The taut relationship between line and space evokes an evolving abstract narrative that seems at once surprising and clear.

The George Billis Gallery marks its 19th year in the Chelsea Art district and its sister gallery is located in the burgeoning gallery district of Culver City in Los Angeles. For more information, please contact the gallery via e-mail at galler@georgebillis.com or visit our website at www.georgebillis.com

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Big Whisper, acrylic and charcoal on canvas, 34x40"