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For Immediate Release

## GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

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# STEVEN KINDER

NOVEMBER 8-12, 2016



*The Blue Light, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x50"*

George Billis Gallery is pleased to announce Steven Kinder and his new work at the New York City location. The exhibition opens on **November 8**, and will run through **November 12**. The opening reception will be held at the George Billis Gallery located at 525 West 26th Street between 10th and 11th avenues on **Thursday, November 10th**, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Using his on-going lexicon of geometric shapes and patterns, now threaded through the motif of the gemstone, Steven Kinder's new series explores how the hypnotic allure of jewels can be examined through paint. In this series, Kinder couples the luster and luminosity of pure color with a geometry that serves as both a container for the color and a kind of maze through which the color flows or is stopped. The shapes may make reference to the bezels or cushion cuts of jewels, but the intent, or invitation, is to explore what paint and form can do within this proposed dialogue.

Kinder cites as his influences, the color field painters Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman, and the masterful expression of the infinite through the floating bands of enveloping color in their work.

But it is perhaps more helpful to refer to the language of the gemologist to describe these works, as the terminology can perfectly encapsulate the effect or mood in each work. 'Dispersion,' sometimes called fire, refers to when light enters a diamond and reflects off the facets and the angles cut into the stone. The distribution of light is known as the display of the spectral colors. Rather than a beam of light, Kinder applies raw pigment in veils with gestural strokes that are layered and thinned with warm water. As in his work the result is color that is somehow both flat yet translucent and illuminated throughout all at once.



*The Yellow Light, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x50"*

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Another term called 'oiling,' commonly used on emeralds, is employed to fill and disappear fine cracks that weaken the color, thereby bringing out a stronger hue. This might be what the technique looks like magnified hundreds of times in his work *The Green Light*. In *The Yellow Light*, Kinder seems to be exploring the formal and perceptual properties of a single phenomena called 'scintillation,' sparkling flashes that comes from the facets of the gem when light reflects off them. The outward action of the flash is suggested by the play of different intensities of yellows and heightened by the sonic circles pulsing towards us.

We can also see marks and drips inside some shapes, and we follow certain visual paths searching for easy symmetries but we are thrown off course by a strong line or mark that juts us away and distracts or complicates the geometric order, as in *The Blue Light*. We can call these interruptions Kinder's 'inclusions.'

In gemological terms, inclusions refer to impurities or imperfections in stones that when magnified or observed through a loupe, but these often give a stone its true personality like a fingerprint. Kinder is rolling the possibilities around in his hands, asking us to look at all the angles, past

the easy connections of these 'jewels' with ideas about perfection, luxury or value. He is exploring how gesture and pure color filtered through the shapes of nature's most beautiful gifts can show us something more

Steven Kinder (born 1956 in Queens, NY) has been working in all media for over 40 years. He received art instruction at Copper Union, New York, and has been focused on painting, works on paper and tarps for the last 5 years. This is his first solo-exhibition in New York.

The George Billis Gallery marks its 20th 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 [gallery@georgebillis.com](mailto:gallery@georgebillis.com) or visit our website at [www.georgebillis.com](http://www.georgebillis.com)



*The Green Light, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x50"*



*The Red Light, Mixed Media on Canvas, 50x50"*

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