

# GEORGE BILLIS GALLERY

## ROLAND KULLA

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For Release: Immediately

### EAST RIVER BRIDGES

May 27 - June 21, 2014



Roland Kulla, Manhattan I, acrylic on canvas, 45x60"

Chicago based artist Roland Kulla will showcase his third solo show of New York's **East River Bridges** at the George Billis Gallery, **May 27 – June 21, 2014**. The opening reception will be held at the gallery on **Thursday, May 29, from 6-8 p.m.** The George Billis Gallery recently moved to 525 West 26 Street, Ground Floor, between 10 and 11 Avenues in the Chelsea Art District. Gallery hours are **Tuesday - Saturday, 10-6 p.m.**

The exhibition features the four iconic bridges on the East River as its theme. Finding a fresh interpretation of these particular bridges - Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro - posed a significant artistic challenge for the artist. How to capture something unique about structures that are so well known and documented?

Kulla composes with the camera and searches for unique views. These nine paintings were selected from more than 125 photographs taken by the artist. While the selection process itself was intuitive, the paintings reveal several approaches Kulla used to achieve his effects. Among these are:

**Unusual views.** The artist states, "I capture recognizable elements of the bridge, but crop them in a unique way. Brooklyn III highlights the lacy superstructure against a rusticated gothic tower."

**Uncommon elements.** "Brooklyn I and II feature an access ramp at Pearl Street in Manhattan – not a view normally associated with that bridge."

**Abstraction.** Kulla selects parts of the structure and removes them from their context to form the composition. The three paintings of the Williamsburg Bridge celebrate its muscular superstructure as viewed from the pedestrian walkway.

**Light and Color:** Chiaroscuro - the contrast of light and dark - is frequently used. By comparison, Brooklyn I and I and Williamsburg III are monochromatic studies using a very limited palette to build the image.

The George Billis Gallery marks its 18th year in the Chelsea Art District and its sister gallery is located in the gallery district of Culver City in Los Angeles. Please contact the gallery via email at [galler@georgebillis.com](mailto:galler@georgebillis.com) or through our website at [www.georgebillis.com](http://www.georgebillis.com).



Roland Kulla, Brooklyn III, acrylic on canvas, 60x48"

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