

STEPHEN HALLER GALLERY

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Gallery Hours: Tue-Sat 10:00AM – 6:00PM

Directions: Between 10th and 11th Ave. Subway: C or E to 23rd



Gregory Johnston studio 2011

GREGORY JOHNSTON: XV

Exhibition Dates: February 24th – April 2nd, 2011

Stephen Haller Gallery is proud to present ***GREGORY JOHNSTON: XV***, new paintings of the artist's signature style: suggestions of calligraphic gestures (described by critic George Melrod as "icons of textual beauty") within a canvas divided into formal, almost architectural drawing. The exhibition opens February 24th and runs through April 2nd.

These new paintings deal with familiar aspects of Johnston's practice: raw pigments in earth tones suspended in amber Alkyd varnish: ethereal grounds that suspend overlays of formal architectural elements. In this series Johnston also explores new found philosophical approaches to picture-making based primarily on his reading of the writings of Maurice Nicoll, particularly his "Invisibility of Oneself".

Johnston strives to transform the two dimensional plane of canvas to one of multi-dimensional depth. His focal element begins in a central window of two-dimensionality, a forced frontal order in the picture. This angularity is then repeated, but is challenged by the strong gestural component of his painting. It is the tension between these two distinct elements that lends dynamism to Johnston's work.

Johnston creates pictures within pictures and achieves dimensionality through layers and composition. The hint of an image appears to surface through translucent color, and Johnston is a superb colorist. There is a mysterious luminosity in Johnston's work; his paintings are noted for their lush, gorgeous surfaces.

The essence of Johnston's practice is the dynamism between the strong gestural component and the geometric aspects of the work. This new series of paintings represents the maturing work of an artist *The Wall Street Journal* heralded as "one of the emerging success stories of his generation."

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