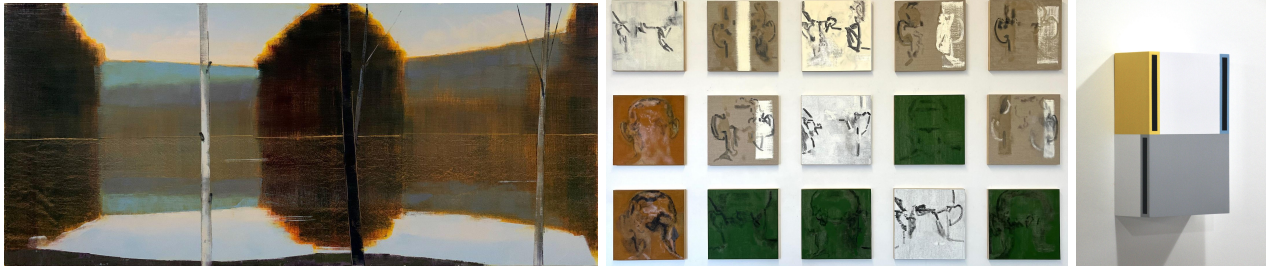


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**KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ARTS PRESENTS A GROUP EXHIBITION  
CURATED BY STEPHEN PENTAK**

*Back From the Hike* features 3 artists in New York City  
June 22 - July 28, 2023



Featuring work by Stephen Pentak, Royce Howes, and Richard Roth

**NEW YORK, NY — May 25th, 2023 — Kathryn Markel Fine Arts** is pleased to announce an upcoming group exhibition curated by Stephen Pentak. The show will feature work by Pentak, Royce Howes, and Richard Roth, and will run from June 22 - July 28, 2023.

*“Everything is mystery, ourselves, and all things both simple and humble.” -Giorgio Morandi*

*Back From the Hike* is a celebration of the work of three painters who met in the Tyler School of Art graduate painting program in the late 1970s, and a tribute to their enduring relationship. Though having stylistically divergent practices, and living in different cities, they have remained close intellectually and spiritually, being each other’s critic and devotee, for forty-seven years. They are now exhibiting together for the first time.

The title of the exhibition derives from a camping trip the three artists embarked on as students. In honor of the three friends, their professor, David Pease\*, titled one of his artworks, “Back from the Hike,” a tip-of-the-hat to Ellsworth Kelly, but also an acknowledgement of the return of Royce, Stephen, and Richard from the hike they took together to Old Rag Mountain in 1976.

*And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And to know the place for the first time.*

- T. S. Elliot, from “Little Gidding,” *Four Quartets*

These paintings that might first appear unrelated, connect below the surface in profound ways. Royce, Richard, and Stephen share an abiding interest in visual form, whether representational or not, that underpins perception.

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All three believe paintings have an uncanny ability to transcend their own objecthood. Royce, Richard, and Stephen are also bound by their engagement with the history of painting and the legacy of Modernism. All three embrace the limitations of a chosen form as a path to deeper investigations.

“A famous sonnet by William Wordsworth begins, 'Nuns fret not their convent's narrow room, / and hermits are contented with their cells; / and students with their pensive citadels.' Wordsworth's point is that what nuns, hermits, and students do is facilitated rather than hindered by the confines of the formal structures they inhabit; because those structures constrain freedom (they remove, says Wordsworth, 'the weight of too much liberty'), they enable movements in a defined space.... That is why Wordsworth reports himself happy 'to be bound / Within the Sonnet's scanty plot of ground.' It is a scanty plot because it is bounded, and because it is bounded, it can be the generator of boundless meanings.”

- Stanley Fish, from *How to Write a Sentence*

\*Artist and educator David Pease was Dean at The Tyler School of Art and later at Yale University. David was a painter who melded his life and career into diaristic but abstract compositions celebrating both high and low cultural sources. David Pease was a mentor to Royce Howes, Stephen Pentak and Richard Roth.

### IMAGE CAPTIONS

Stephen Pentak, “2023.II.P” 2023, oil on panel, 32 x 72 in.

Royce Howes, “December 6, 2022 - January 2023,” 2022-2023, oil or acrylic on linen mounted on wood panel, 12 x 12 in. panels, group of 15

Richard Roth, “Topsy-Turvey,” 2022, acrylic on wood panel, 12 x 18 x 4 in.

### MEDIA CONTACT

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### ABOUT KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ARTS

Established in 1975 with the belief that significant contemporary art can be beautiful as well as visually and intellectually rigorous, Kathryn Markel Fine Art is committed to the experience of discovery and collecting at the highest level. Committed to serving a deep network of collectors and institutions, Kathryn Markel Fine art showcases a diverse array of primary market artists, unified by excellence in their craft, compelling intellectual framework, and a love of the art-making process. <https://www.markelfinearts.com/>

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