

KATHRYN
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FINE ARTS
EST. 1976

**KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ARTS PRESENTS AN EXHIBITION OF NEW WORK
BY ARTIST ERICK JOHNSON**

Cross/Currents features new work by artist Erick Johnson in New York City
November 30th - December 22nd, 2023

NEW YORK, NY — November 22, 2023 — Kathryn Markel Fine Arts is pleased to announce an upcoming exhibition of paintings by Erick Johnson. “Cross/Currents” will run from November 30 - December 22, 2023 with an opening reception on November 30th from 5-7. It will be the first exhibition held at the gallery’s newest location, located at 179 Tenth Avenue in Chelsea, and is Johnson’s second solo show at the gallery.

In "Cross/Currents," Erick Johnson invites the viewer to ponder the paradox of infusing movement into what appears to be a static visual field. This series tests the tension between possible binaries: shape vs field, design vs paint, exactitude vs entropy and above all, the static vs movement. As Stephen Maine puts it, “Johnson has a fundamental motivating hypothesis: How do you get something to ‘move’ that’s not really moving at all?”



At the heart of Johnson's approach to painting is his use of an imperfect grid consisting of irregular polygons. They are sometimes divided into smaller polygons but always painted with luminous transparent colors, employing washes and overlays that create a visual symphony of relational color juxtapositions. “I paint each polygon with successive overlapping bands of color, which are dragged and scraped using various tools,” Johnson says. These tools are handmade and work to create graphic striations and a visual record of movement by the hand. How color and shape work together to create complexity and resolution is an enduring interest for Johnson.

Johnson treats each polygon as a singular area of focus - a painting unto itself that must relate to the painting’s ecosystem. The paradox of stillness and movement invites the viewer to create relationships and differences in their own mind, resulting in a gentle but persistent tension, causing the paintings to pulsate with energy— a phenomenon Johnson aptly dubs “escape from stasis.”

Erick Johnson holds an MFA from Bard College and a BFA from Empire State College. He has presented notable solo exhibitions, including at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, VT, and Gallery Neptune & Brown, Wash DC. He has also participated in group exhibitions at LABspace, in Hillsdale, NY, Bernays Fine Art in Great Barrington, MA, and Furnace: Art on Paper Archive in Falls Village, CT amongst others. He is a new 2023 member of the historic American Abstract Artists group and lives and works in New York City.

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IMAGE CAPTION

Erick Johnson, “*Split Combine*,” 2023, oil on canvas, 40 x 50 in.

MEDIA CONTACT

Abbie Knight

abbie@markelfinearts.com

ABOUT KATHRYN MARKEL FINE ART

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/>

20th Street

529 W 20th St. 6W
New York, NY 10011

10th Avenue

179 10th Avenue
New York, NY 10011

Bridgehampton

2428 Montauk Hwy
Bridgehampton, NY 11032