

October 15, 2019

Stephen Westfall is represented by Alexandre Gallery, New York.



Stephen Westfall, *Three Kings*, 2015, oil and alkyd on canvas, 66 x 78 inches

Alexandre Gallery is delighted to announce its representation of the veteran abstract painter Stephen Westfall (American, b. 1953). The gallery will present its first exhibition of Westfall's new paintings and works on paper next season in fall 2020. The artist was previously represented by Lennon, Weinberg Gallery in New York since 1997.

Since Stephen Westfall's first solo show in the East Village in 1984, his crisp, hard-edged paintings have charted a course between post-minimalist geometries and a Pop inflected awareness of a painting as a thing in the world. Drawing on influences as diverse as Caucasian and Navajo rugs, medieval heraldry, Byzantine floor tile, early twentieth century abstraction, architecture and Pop, Minimalist and post-Minimalist painting, Westfall's abstraction is deeply articulated while formally honed into an active, perceptual immediacy. His brightly colored diamonds, triangles and trapezoids in the most recent canvases are conjoined into dynamic compositional skeins that seem to lean into space rather than recede.

Writing on Westfall's 2018 Lennon, Weinberg show, the critic John Yau wrote, "I see Westfall as part of a constellation of artists interested in geometry to section off the painting's surface . . . to establish different sets of constraints that widen the approach of artists such as Ellsworth Kelly, Agnes Martin, John McLaughlin, and Barnett Newman." Yau continued, "What distinguishes his work from theirs is the particular pressures he applies to the grid, so that it would appear as if, in the artist's words, 'the whole thing could tremble and be knocked over.' Vulnerability infiltrates imperviousness, in a way that reveals the extent to which it had been there all along."

ALEXANDRE GALLERY

Originally from the West Coast, Stephen Westfall received his MFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1978. During the 1980s and 90s he exhibited his work at Daniel Newberg Gallery, New York; Galerie Paal, Munich; Andre Emmerich Gallery, New York and Galerie Zurcher, Paris; among others. This past spring his work was featured at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York. In addition to his studio practice, Westfall has been engaged in large-scale public installations, including a major recent commission from the Art and Design program of the MTA. This project includes three works, two of which measure over 60 foot, and are executed in laminated glass. They adorn the 30th Avenue subway station in Astoria, Queens. Other installations include large wall paintings created for the McNay Art Museum (2016), Art OMI (2014), and the American Academy in Rome (2010).

Works by the artist are in public collections including the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, the Munson Williams Proctor Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art, and Louisiana Museum (Denmark), among others. Westfall has received grants and awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Nancy Graves Foundation, and the Guggenheim Foundation. In 2009 he was awarded a Rome Prize Fellowship and spent a year working at the American Academy in Rome. He is a professor at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University and in the graduate program at Bard College. Westfall is a longtime Contributing Editor at *Art in America*.

A selection of recent and earlier paintings by Stephen Westfall are available for view at the gallery by appointment. Ahead of the scheduled fall 2020 exhibition, the gallery will present his work at UNTITLED, ART San Francisco in January.

For further information and images please contact the gallery at 212-755-2828 or at inquiries@alexandregallery.com

**Currently on view: *Hyman Bloom: American Master* through October 26th.
Closing reception and gallery talk by Henry Adams on Saturday, October 26th, 3:30 pm.**

Upcoming: Loren MacIver: *Poetic Vision* opening November 14th, 5:30 – 7:00 pm.