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Collage and Grid Abstractions

Carl Berg

August 27th, 2021 – October 10th, 2021

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Los Angeles, August 3 , 2021 – Tufenkian Fine Arts is pleased to present *Collage and Grid Abstractions*, featuring a selection of artworks by artist Carl Berg. The recently completed series of collage and grid abstractions reflect the artist's interest in color, form, and texture. The show will run from Friday, August 27th, and will be on view through Sunday, October 10th. This will be Berg's first showing with the gallery.

The presentation of works by Carl Berg feature watercolor paper cutouts that have been painted over with acrylic paint. In these works, rhythmic linear patterns of scrolling and interlacing tendrils permeate vibrant blankets of color. Berg's constantly changing arrays of colored shapes and patterns shift and grow over the surface of the composition. Slowly built layers of color and carefully delineated arabesques beautifully contrast the irregularity of the texture of the paper, creating a highly dynamic work which seems to oscillate between precision and gestural freedom.

On a recent trip to Italy Berg created a new series of constructed collages. When in Italy, Berg did not have access to a full studio so he created works on a small table. Exploring various techniques he discovered a method in which he collaged cut pieces of watercolor paper. Each individual element was hand cut and painted by Berg. These multiple elements each with their own distinctive pattern and gesture were then assembled into a singular work creating contradictions of shape and pattern. The works are neither painting nor sculpture having aspects of both. This method of art-making worked perfectly for the limited workspace he had to work in.

When Berg returned to Los Angeles he continued to explore this new method of art making. He also pushed the concept to create three dimensional collages still made from painted watercolor paper. The artist chooses to refer to these works as collage abstraction and grid abstractions to avoid any contextual connotations which the viewer may draw from the compositions. The end result of these meticulously crafted works displays a hypnotizing juxtaposition between free floating layers of color and gracefully intertwined lines.

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For press related inquiries, please email Caroline Tufenkian
caroline@tufenkianfinearts.com
818.288.4635

For all other inquiries, please email Max Beinhacker
max.b@tufenkianfinearts.com

Tufenkian Fine Arts
216 S. Louise Street
Glendale, CA 91205