

Press release

# JEFF KOWATCH Mind and Freedom

#### **EXHIBITION - PARIS**

From May 15th to July 13rd, 2024

#### **OPENING**

Wednesday May 15th, 2024, from 6pm to 9pm

## **NEWS 2024**



Publishing of a significant monograph, by Éditions Skira



Thursday Nocturne des Beaux-Arts June 6<sup>th</sup> & July 4<sup>th</sup>



Paris Gallery Weekend May 24, 25 and 26, 2024



Jeff Kowatch, Luxe, calme et volupté, oil bar on dibond, H 150 x L 300 cm, 2023 © Dorian Rollin

# **SOMMAIRE**

1.	Presse release	<b>p.</b> 3
2.	CV	p.6
3.	Practical information	p.8



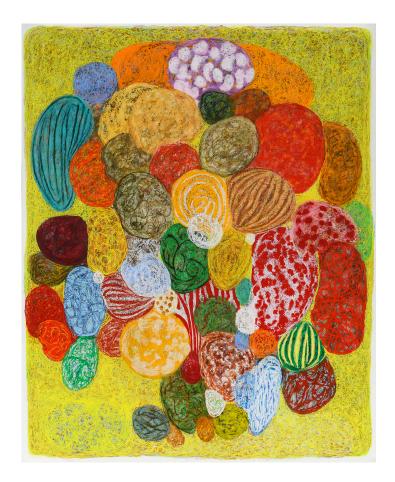
Jeff Kowatch © Dorian Rollin

Galerie La Forest Divonne is pleased to present a new exhibition by American painter Jeff Kowatch, from May 16 to July 13, 2024 in Paris. The gallery has been working with this American painter since 2008. The title of this new exhibition, «Mind and Freedom», refers to Jeff Kowatch's painting practice, influenced by his Zen practice, in which he seeks to free himself from the subject to allow the representation of his inner world to emerge on canvas, relying on slow, repetitive gestures and an impressionistic juxtaposition of colors.

The artist has developed a colorist's style marked by the great American abstractionists from *Mark Rothko* to *Brice Marden*. The application of numerous layers of color through the repetition of a gesture over a long period of time gives Kowatch's works a very special vibrancy. In terms of technique, it's the great Flemish painters, *Vermeer* and *Rembrandt* in particular, whose linseed oil recipes he has reappropriated, that give his paintings the particular effect of depth and transparency, typical of glazes.

Recently, Kowatch has been creating largeformat paintings using oil sticks on dibonds, which draw the eye with their generous shapes and incredibly luminous, warm, layered colors. This Californian painter, who has lived in Belgium for the past twenty years, works in parallel with 2 different techniques: glazing on canvas (paintings) and oil sticks on aluminum (drawings).

These are two very elaborate and slow techniques, requiring six to eight months' work for the oil sticks, and two to three years for the canvases, on which he superimposes up to a hundred successive layers. It is this layering that gives them exceptional texture, color and depth over time. Jeff Kowatch was deeply inspired by Monet and the garden at Giverny. His painting is also rooted in a very American abstraction, but is built on the techniques of 17th-century European painting, and often draws on the subjects of still lifes and floral compositions from the Golden Age.



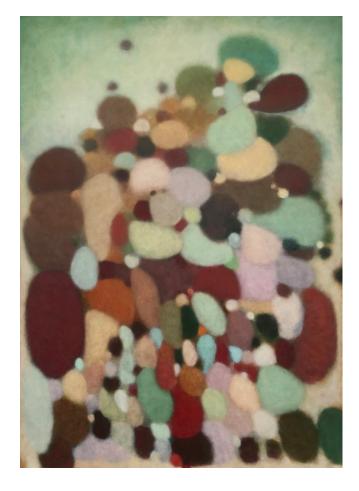
Jeff Kowatch, *Katz*, oil bar on dibond, H 210 x L 170 cm, 2023 © Dorian Rollin

## Galerie La Forest Divonne & Galerie Moretti Fine Art

For this new exhibition in Paris, Galerie La Forest Divonne has joined forces with the Galerie Moretti Fine Art - present in London, Monaco and Paris - who will lend a painting by *Pier Francesca Cittadini* entitled *Vase of flowers with Pale of Olives*, *Salami and cheese, Preserves*, a *Chalice and a white fringed cloth*, circa 1660, which will be presented alongside works by Jeff Kowatch.

The pairing of one of the artist's works with this large floral bouquet underlines the extent to which Jeff Kowatch's work is part of the long tradition of painting.

Conversely, a painting by Jeff Kowatch will hang in the Galerie Moretti Fine Art - Paris, located close to the Louvre. Visitors will be able to cross the Seine and admire the dialogue between the artist's work and masterpieces of the past.



Jeff Kowatch, *The Big Assumption*, oil on linen, 284 x 203 cm, 2018-2021 © Dorian Rollin



**MORETTI** 

Pier Francesco Cittadini, Vase of Flowers with Pale of Olives, Salami and Cheese, Preserves, a Chalice and a white fringed Cloth, Oil on canvas, 125 x 100 cm © Moretti Fine Art

### Jeff Kowatch, Monograph to be published in May 2024, by Skira

To coincide with the exhibition, Éditions Skira is publishing a major monograph of Jeff Kowatch's work, tracing the artist's development from the very beginning. The critical text is written by Juliette Singer, chief curator at the Petit Palais, formerly chief curator of modern and contemporary art at the Louvre Abu Dhabi. She will take up her new position as Director of the Palais des Beaux-Arts de Lille and the Musée de l'Hospice Comtesse, in April.



This monograph will be distributed internationally (French/English text). Publication in May 2024.

"Jeff Kowatch's painting reflects his relationship with the world, steeped in Zen philosophy. His vibrant, motionless forms, which delicately brush against each other in a blurred effect characteristic of the artist's work, open up an almost metaphysical dimension."

Juliette Singer, Director of the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Lille (in post from April 1, 2024). Extract from the text of Jeff Kowatch's monograph, to be published by Skira in May 2024.



Galerie La Forest Divonne - Brussels, exhibition views, Jeff Kowatch, Man Jok., 2021 © Galerie La Forest Divonne

### CV

#### **SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 *Mind and Freedom*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2022 *Breath*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2021 *Man Jok*, Galerie La Forest Divonne et Espace ODRADEK, Bruxelles, Belgique
- 2019 Expo Chicago, Galerie La Forest Divonne,
   Chicago, Illinois, USA
   Art on Paper, Galerie La Forest Divonne,
   Bruxelles, Belgique
- 2018 Jeff Kowatch, *Full Circle*, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Brussels, Belgium Jeff Kowatch, NegenPuntNegen Gallery, Roeselare, Belgique
- 2016 Apocalyptic Carnival, Galerie Faider, Brussels, Belgium Schilderijen , NegenPuntNegen Gallery, Roeselare, Belgium Circus, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2015 *The Belgium Odyssey Paintings*, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique
- 2014 The Belgium Odyssey Paintings, Galerie Faider, Brussels, Belgique The Belgium Odyssey Paintings, NegenPuntNegen Gallery, Roeselare, Belgique
- 2013 ...and out of Chaos came Color, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France Recent Paintings, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique
- 2012 New Works, Galerie Faider, Brussels, Belgique
- 2011 Don Quixote in Vlaanderen, NegenPuntNegen Gallery, Roeselare, Belgique Works on paper, Art on Paper, The White Hotel, Bruxelles, Belgique Don Quixote in Amsterdam, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ, Amsterdam, Pays-Bas
- 2009 Don Quixote part 1, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France Stratus Mountainous Cumulus, NegenPuntNegen Gallery, Roeselare, Belgique H.U.B. at the US State Department of Bruxelles, Belgique

- 2006 Stratus Mountainous Cumulus, Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, USA 2004 Untitled Earl McGrath Gallery New York
- 2004 Untitled, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
- 2003 Thou Shalt, Jeff Bailey Gallery, New York, USA Salome Series, Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 2001 Salome Series, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA Works on paper from the Salomé series, Paul Sharpe Fine Art, New York, USA
- 1998 BVM Series, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
- 1997 Apostles, Union Theological Seminary, New York, USA

#### **GROUP EXHIBITIONS**

- 2024 La Boverie, Liège, Bruxelles BRAFA Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2023 BRAFA Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique Expo Chicago, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Chicago, USA Art Antwerp, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique Art Brussels, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique
- 2022 L'Œuvre au corps, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique Art Brussels, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique Expo Chicago, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Chicago, USA Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris, France
- 2021 La Biennale Paris, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2019 Art Paris Art Fair, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France
- 2017 Dialoog / Dialogue, Jeff Kowatch + Pierre Alechinsky + Bram Bogart,
   NegenPuntNegen, Belgique Geste, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France

		Knokke, Belgique Gallery, Roeselare, Belgique		Winter Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
	2016	Passions partagées, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique L'Art pour l'Accueil, Galerie Pierre Bergé & Associés, Belgique	2000	Paul SharpeFine Art, New York, USA Paper, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA Summer Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
	2015	Pascal Courcelles & Jeff Kowatch, NegenPuntNegen Gallery, Roeselare, Belgium Art Paris, Art Fair, Inauguration, Galerie Marie Hélène de La Forest Divonne, Paris, France L'Art pour l'Accueil, Galerie Pierre Bergé & Associés, Belgique	1998 1994	Stocking Stuffers, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA Summer Group Show, Parts I & II, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA 1995, John Thomas Gallery, Santa Monica, California, USA Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach,
	2014	7en14, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France Summer-Expo, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique		California, USA 1010 Small Works, New Gallery, Santa Monica, USA CA Robert Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
	2013	PAN, Amsterdam, The Netherlands Winter-Expo, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique	1993	Art in Bloom, Long Beach Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
	2012	Art Paris, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France	1992	Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
	2011	Papier, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France L'Art pour l'Accueil, Galerie Pierre Bergé & Associés, Belgique	1990 1989	Installation One, Los Angeles, USA Zero One Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
	2010	Water, Wind, Wandelen, Centrum Ysara, Nieuwpoort, Belgique	Musées royaux des Beaux-Arts de Belgique, Belgique Long Beach Museum of Art, Long Beach, California, USA Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, Californie, USA Union Theological Seminary, New York, USA  BIBLIOGRAPHY	
	2009	Le dessin à l'œuvre, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France Art Paris, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France		
	2008	20 ans et plus, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France Honorons Honoré, De Garage, Mechelen, Belgique		
	2005	Winter Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA Work on Paper, Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, USA Spring Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, USA Fall Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA	2024	Jeff Kowatch, Monographie. Ed. Skira
			2021	Jeff Kowatch, Grand cru. Gribouillages et griffonages. 1985-1995, Alentours, Ed. Tandem
			2018	Jeff Kowatch, Full Circle, Catalogue, Ed. Galerie La Forest Divonne & Galerie Faider
		Untitled, Galerie Kusseneers, Antwerp,	2016	Paul Émond, Jeff Kowatch, conversation

Gallery, New York, USA

Connected stories, Absolute Art Gallery,

Belgique

New York, USA

2003 Jeff Kowatch and Vincenzo Amato, Earl McGrath Gallery, USA LA Selected Prints, Earl McGrath Gallery,

Summer Group Show, Earl McGrath

avec Paul Émond, Éditions Tandem

2012 Jeff Kowatch, Laline Paull, Audrey Bazin, Melissa Mathison, Earl Mc Grath Gallery NY, Galerie Vieille du Temple, 2009.

# **INFORMATIONS PRATIQUES**

# JEFF KOWATCH Mind and Freedom

#### **EXHIBITION - PARIS**

From May 15th to July 13rd, 2024

#### **OPENING**

Wednesday May 15th, 2024, from 6pm to 9pm

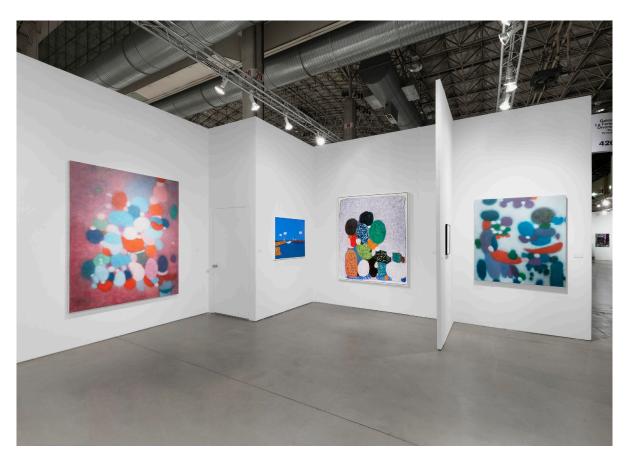
#### **GALERIE LA FOREST DIVONNE - PARIS**

12, rue des Beaux-arts 75006 Paris

Tuesday-Saturday 11am-7pm +33 (0)1 40 29 97 52

#### PRESS CONTACT

Virginie Boissière virginie.boissiere@galerielaforestdivonne.com + 33 (0)6 74 49 35 83



Expo Chicago 2022, Galerie La Forest Divonne Paris + Brussels © Galerie La Forest Divonne