

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 6th & July 4th



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

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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 large-format 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



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, 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 *Dialogo / Dialogue*, Jeff Kowatch + Pierre Alechinsky + Bram Bogart, NegenPuntNegen, Belgique
Geste, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Paris, France

- Connected stories, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique
Gallery, Roeselare, Belgique
- 2016 Passions partagées, Galerie La Forest Divonne, Bruxelles, Belgique
L'Art pour l'Accueil, Galerie Pierre Bergé & Associés, Belgique
- 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
- 2014 7en14, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France
Summer-Expo, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique
- 2013 PAN, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Winter-Expo, Absolute Art Gallery, Knokke, Belgique
- 2012 Art Paris, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France
- 2011 Papier, Galerie Vieille du Temple, Paris, France
L'Art pour l'Accueil, Galerie Pierre Bergé & Associés, Belgique
- 2010 Water, Wind, Wandelen, Centrum Ysara, Nieuwpoort, Belgique
- 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
Untitled, Galerie Kusseneers, Antwerp, Belgique
- 2003 Jeff Kowatch and Vincenzo Amato, Earl McGrath Gallery, USA
LA Selected Prints, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
Summer Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
Winter Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
- 2000 Paul Sharpe Fine Art, New York, USA
Paper, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
Summer Group Show, Earl McGrath Gallery, New York, USA
- 1998 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
- 1994 Laguna Art Museum, Laguna Beach, California, USA
1010 Small Works, New Gallery, Santa Monica, USA
CA Robert Art Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 1993 Art in Bloom, Long Beach Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles, USA
- 1992 Earl McGrath Gallery, Los Angeles, USA
- 1990 Installation One, Los Angeles, USA
- 1989 Zero One Gallery, Los Angeles, USA

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

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

- 2024 Jeff Kowatch, Monographie. Ed. Skira
- 2021 Jeff Kowatch, Grand cru. Gribouillages et griffonnages. 1985-1995, Alentours, Ed. Tandem
- 2018 Jeff Kowatch, Full Circle, Catalogue, Ed. Galerie La Forest Divonne & Galerie Faider
- 2016 Paul Émond, Jeff Kowatch, conversation 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

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