

PRESS RELEASE

GUSTAVO BONEVARDI

April 2 – May 16, 2022

Water and Color on Paper



Composition, September 23, 2021
watercolor & gouache, 30 x 22 inches



Composition, November 3, 2021
watercolor, 26 x 40 inches

On view from April 2 through May 16, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present **GUSTAVO BONEVARDI Water and Color on Paper**. The exhibition features radiant new abstractions that range from a suite of four small watercolors to a large diptych measuring five feet wide.

Trained as an architect, Bonevardi's public sculpture, light commissions and earlier paintings embody precision, perfect gradients and aspects of minimalism. Within a fluid studio practice between two and three-dimensional work, the artist's most recent works on paper embrace color in a series that explores buoyancy, chance and transformation. From effervescent to tranquil, the paintings on view capture moments of pure action in compositions that evoke botanical forms, aquatic ecosystems and atmospheric realms.

In this new body of work, Bonevardi employs a rigorous technique in which gouache and watercolor pigments are slowly released from above. Through a process that is controlled but not premeditated, the water-based pigments burst into speckled blossoms and spatters, condense into orbs, and spread into diffuse veils of color. Linear motifs are created through gentle turns of the paper in tandem with gravity, as the artist coaxes drops of color across the sheet surface in single strands. In some compositions these elements function like stems that support an array of petals, color bursts and halos. In others, the sinuous marks conjure rocket trails. Bonevardi is thoroughly engaged in his methodology, likening the process to a Haiku. Abstract forms materialize gradually through the artist's precise yet intuitive gestures in which neither hand nor brush touch the paper.

All of the works on view were created in the artist's East Hampton studio over the past year. In *Composition, September 23, 2021*, a riot of color erupts across the image field with saturated drops of blue, crimson, tangerine, and yellow, and rhythmic lines that suggest fresh cut flowers. Conversely, the indigo palette and subtle imagery of *Composition, November 3, 2021*, invokes a contemplative atmosphere of solitude.

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Bonevardi's interest in color is fueled, in part, by the sciences and the anomalies that exist between prismatic color, or actual light, and the pigments available to artists. Noting that color from a paint tube is a fiction created for our physical world, he explores the genuine nature of light. The artist imagines a single true blue so pure it would be the color of oxygen or space, and references the acronym ROYGBIV (a mnemonic device based on the seven colors of the rainbow as defined by Isaac Newton). Through his nuanced handling of translucent pigments on bright white paper, Gustavo Bonevardi invites viewers to observe the mysterious alchemy of his interaction with chromatic materials.

Bonevardi's art in other mediums includes incised sculptures in basalt, African pyrophyllite, wood, and soapstone, conceptual graphite and acrylic drawings, and numerous site-specific art works. Among his many public works, the most well-known is *Tribute in Light*, World Trade Center, an ode to New York City that recurs each year in commemoration of September 11th.



Composition, October 25, 2021, gouache, 30 x 22 inches

Spring gallery hours: Friday through Monday 11-5, and by appointment

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