

Press Preview:

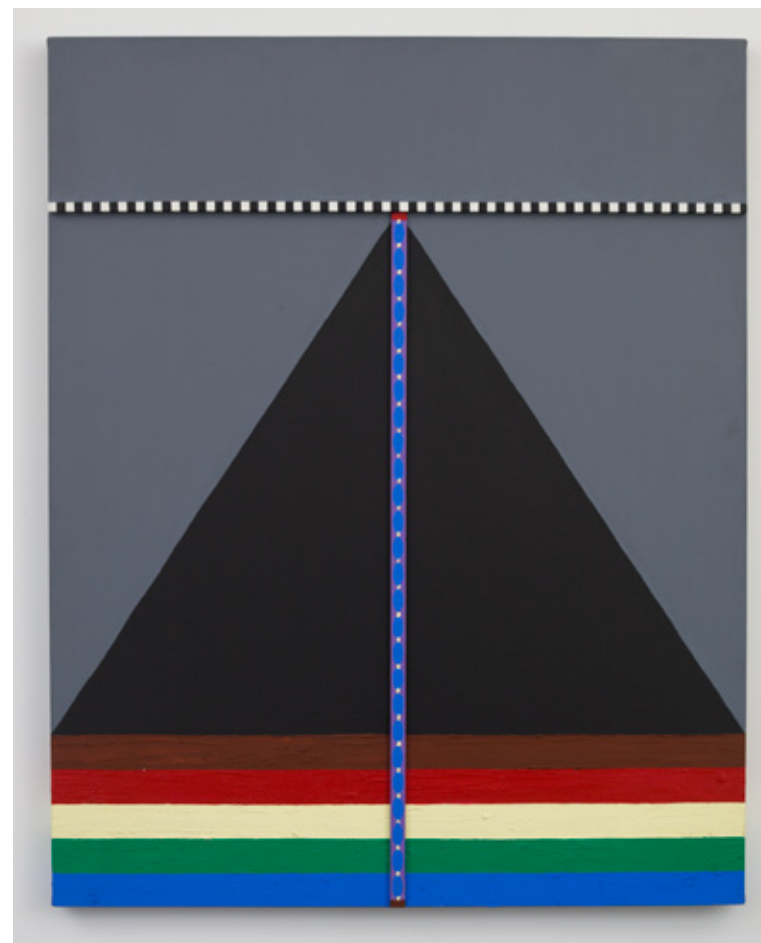
The Phoenix and the Mountain
In-centric Abstraction in the 80s

curated by Choghakate Kazarian

Regina Bogat
Lisa Beck
Emery Blagdon
Jonathan Lasker
Chris Martin
Thomas Nozkowski
Harvey Quaytman

May 13 - June 13, 2021

Opening Reception:
Thursday, May 13, 3 - 6 PM



Regina Bogat
The Phoenix and the Mountain #7, 1980
Acrylic, wood on canvas
50 x 40 in / 127 x 101.6 cm
Courtesy of Zürcher Gallery, NY / Paris

For Immediate Release:

Zürcher Gallery NY presents a group exhibition curated by **Choghakate Kazarian** with painters **Regina Bogat, Lisa Beck, Emery Blagdon, Jonathan Lasker, Chris Martin, Thomas Nozkowski,** and **Harvey Quaytman.**

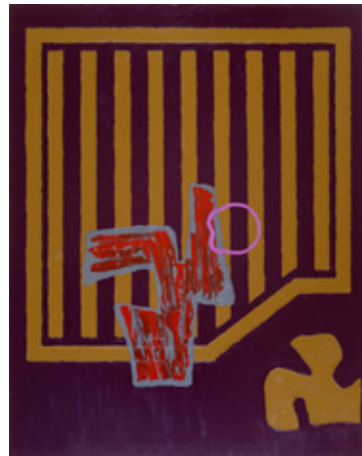
"I knew my life was about to change. The intensity of AI's career and all its effects would be changing, leaving me to redefine myself and enter a new period in my life. I was facing this shift in my identity with trepidation and with hope," said **Regina Bogat** (born 1928) about her series of paintings *The Phoenix and the Mountain*, realized in 1980 when her husband, the painter Alfred Jensen, was dying. Somehow for her painting became a pilgrimage, of mourning and recreating herself, as symbolized by the phoenix: "I would have a renaissance in rising from the ashes of my past life." Employing mythological references through geometric forms, Bogat built a new body of work, using abstraction to convey her own experience. These paintings draw on various spiritual elements, such as the Nazca lines Bogat saw in Peru or the Tibetan Buddhist monasteries located on almost inaccessible peaks, expressed in the triangles that dominate her series.

This exhibition gathers works made during the 1980s, a decade known for a return to painting defined mostly through gestural expressionism. The artists presented here, however, worked within a contained pictoriality, using geometric forms for their narrative, almost figurative, potential. A synchronic encounter of artists of different generations, at different stages of their lives and careers, the exhibition explores their use of geometric forms not as a goal but as a language, exploited for the forms' denotative abilities, which breaks with the nonnarrative abstractness inherent to modernism. Distancing themselves from modernist abstraction as well as postmodernist irony, the artists presented here use poetical titles and abstract form to suggest potential scenarios legible in the composition without moving into figuration.

Press Release continues on page 3.



Regina Bogat
The Phoenix and the Mountain #9, 1980
Acrylic, wood, rope on canvas
40 x 36 in / 101.6 x 91.4 cm
Courtesy of Zürcher Gallery, NY / Paris



Jonathan Lasker
Deep Purple, 1984
Oil on Canvas
64 x 50 in / 163 x 127 cm
Courtesy of Greene Naftali, NY



Thomas Nozkowski
Untitled (6-53), 1988
Oil on canvas board
16 x 20 in / 40.6 cm x 50.8 cm
Courtesy of Pace Gallery, NY



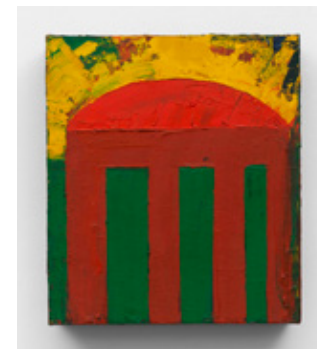
Harvey Quaytman
Tip, 1981
Acrylic on canvas
35 x 33 in / 89 x 84 cm
Courtesy of the Harvey Quaytman Trust and
Van Doren Waxter, NY



Lisa Beck
Around the Day in 80 Worlds, 1988
oil on linen
48 x 40 in / 121.9 x 101.6 cm
Courtesy of the Artist



Emery Blagdon
Element 08, c.1954-1986
Wood, copper wire
5.75 x 5.75 x .75 in / 14.6 x 14.6 x 1.9 cm
Cavin-Morris Gallery, NY



Chris Martin
Temple, 1985
Oil on canvas
16 x 14 in / 41 x 36 cm
Courtesy of Anton Kern Gallery, NY

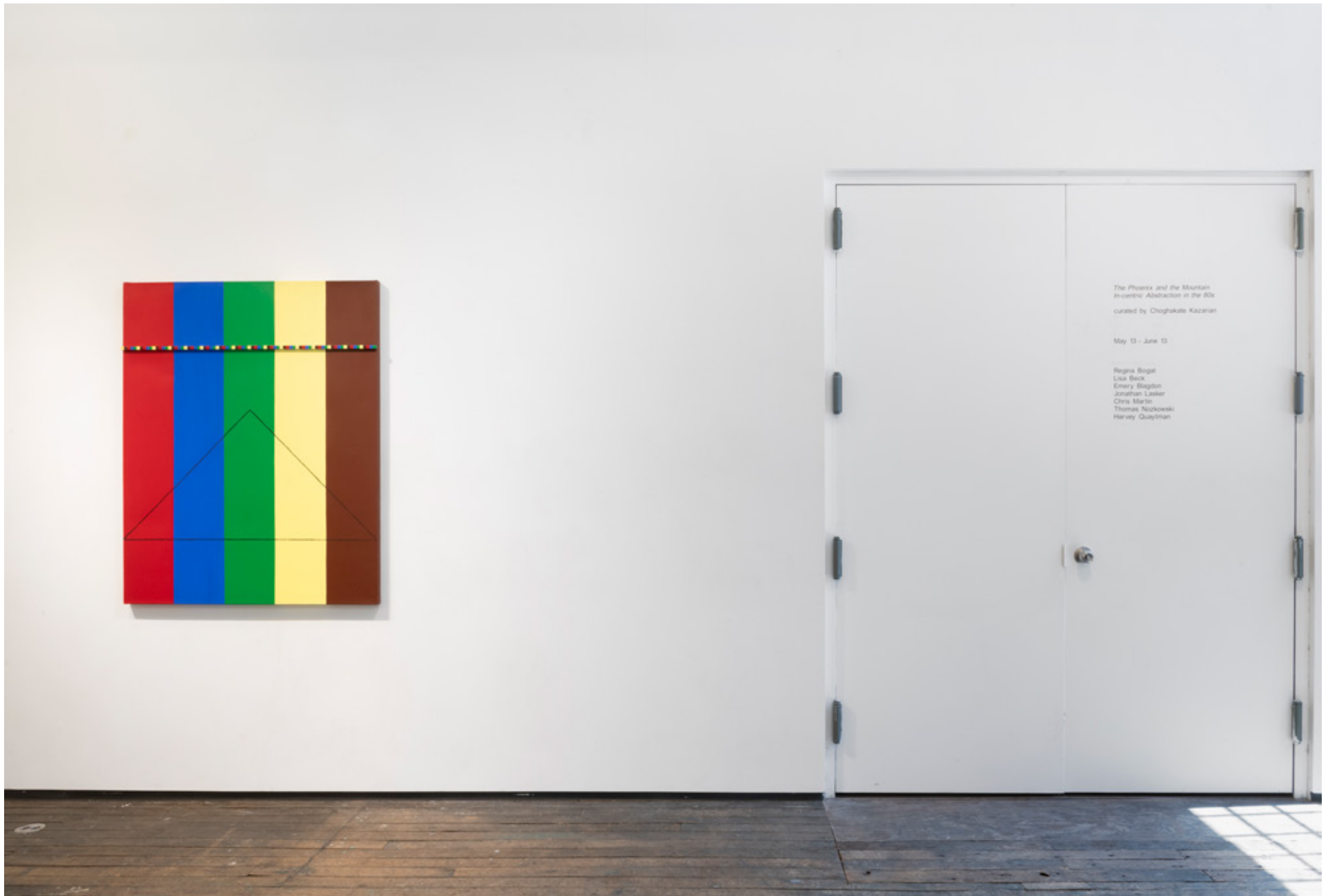
Jonathan Lasker (born 1948), whose paintings bear marks that interact with each other as if characters playing together, has commented, “I think of my paintings as being non-narrative, yet discursive.” In *Deep Purple* (1984), included in the show, Lasker broke the mystical undertone of abstraction with references to pop culture. “During this period, I was going back and forth from figuration to abstraction. The issue was whether the figure was going to be abstract or referential; eventually the figure became an abstract ‘figure of speech,’ so to speak.” Similarly, **Thomas Nozkowski** (1944–2019) created dynamic interactions between various shapes in his small in-centric abstractions.

Harvey Quaytman (1937–2002), also featured in the exhibition, paid meticulous attention to shape and texture, as expressed in his work *Tip* through a slowly enameled surface. The ex-centric shape at the bottom right of the canvas introduces not only movement but also a narrative excursion. During the 1980s the artist abandoned his lifelong exploration of the curve for the square and cross, as in *Hotel Regina Revisited, II*. The protruding edges of the collaged cross made of ground glass breaks the purity of the square. In contrast, **Lisa Beck**’s (born 1958) cosmic abstract language is made of ethereal spheres interlocking into each other to create paintings that she conceives as “imaginative fiction.” Her effulgent circles act as models for monadic interpretations of different worlds infused with psychedelic visual culture.

Emery Blagdon (1907–1986) was a self-taught artist who worked on one changing installation from the late 1950s until his death in 1986. The paintings presented here are portions of his immense *Healing Machine*, envisioned to channel energies in order to alleviate illness. Not conceived as pictures per se, the paintings of symmetrical lines were intended as batteries to enhance the curative powers of the machine. Fascinated by Alfred Jensen’s impastoed and tightly ordered geometric forms, **Chris Martin** (born 1954) has explored abstraction in an eclectic body of work that encompasses mystical references with elements of pop culture. As with Nozkowski and Blagdon, Martin chose a small canvas for his work *Temple* as a method of concentrating energies. The show brings together artists of different backgrounds whose works are not an attempt at abstracting from the world but instead employ abstract forms for a thickened experience of it.

Choghakate Kazarian is a curator and art historian. She was formerly a curator at the Musée d’Art Moderne de Paris and taught at the École du Louvre. She has curated exhibitions on artists such as Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni, Karel Appel, and Henry Darger, and she has edited various exhibition catalogues and published on postwar art, outsider art, Marcel Duchamp, and Louis Michel Eilshemius. She is editor-at-large at the *Brooklyn Rail* and is a ph.d. candidate at the Courtauld Institute of Art, where she is writing a dissertation on Albert Pinkham Ryder.

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 – 6 PM AND SUN 2 – 6 PM



The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM

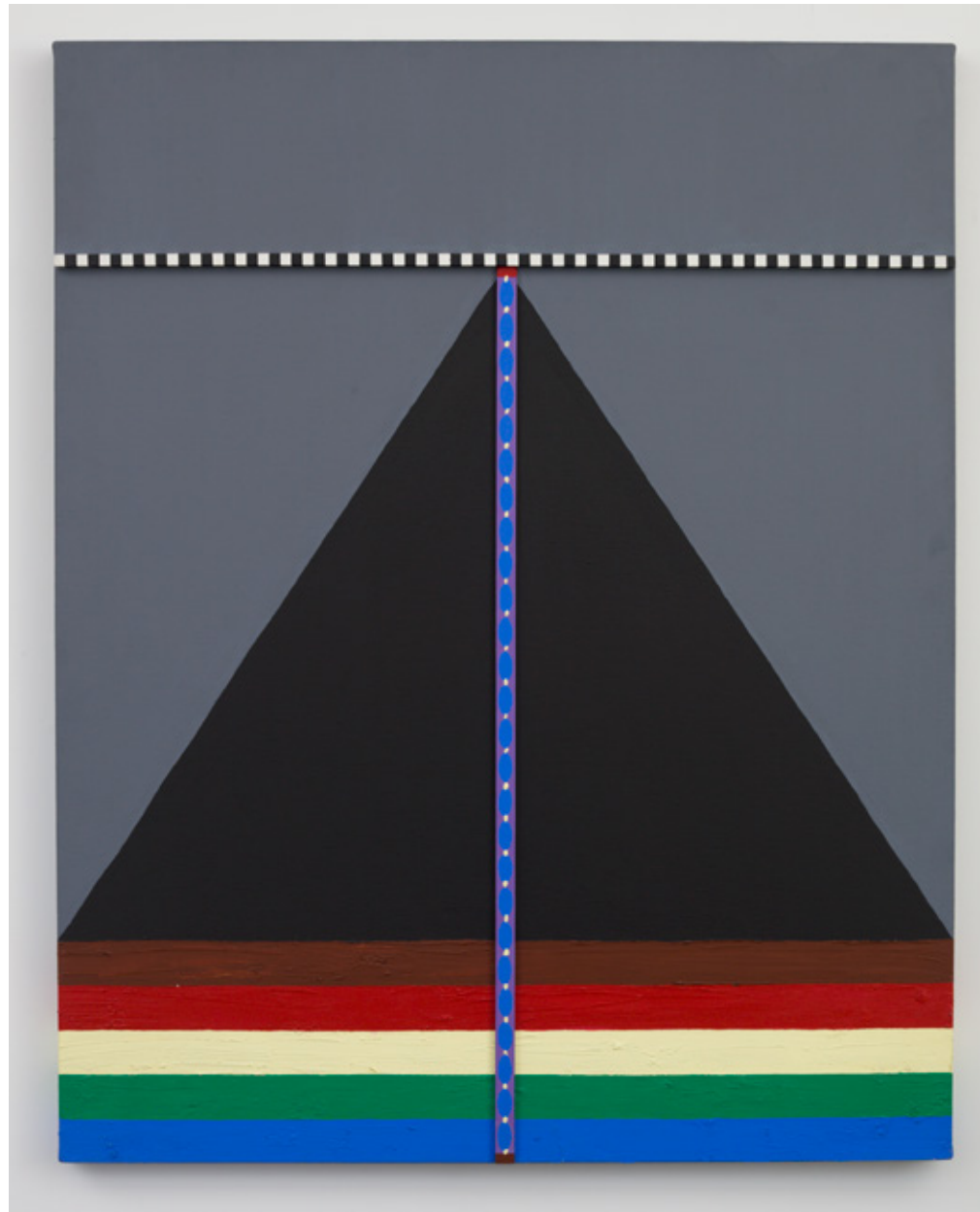


Regina Bogat
The Phoenix and the Mountain #6, 1980
Acrylic, wood on canvas
45 x 32 in / 114.3 x 81.3 cm
Courtesy of Zürcher Gallery, NY / Paris

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

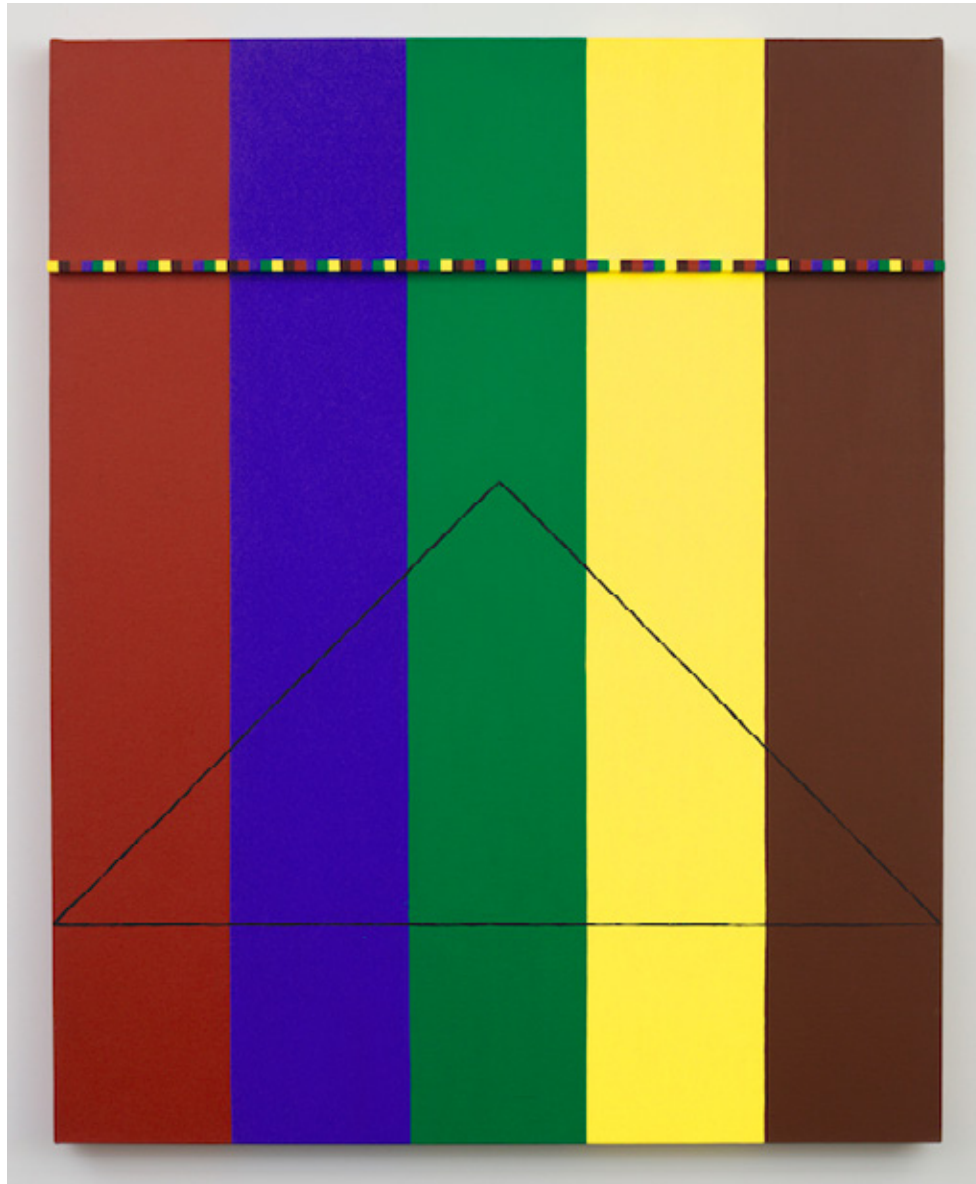
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Regina Bogat
The Phoenix and the Mountain #7, 1980
Acrylic, wood on canvas
50 x 40 in / 127 x 101.6 cm
Courtesy of Zürcher Gallery, NY / Paris

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Regina Bogat
The Phoenix and the Mountain #9, 1980
Acrylic, wood, rope on canvas
50 x 40 in / 127 x 101.6 cm
Courtesy of Zürcher Gallery, NY / Paris

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Regina Bogat
Solola, 1986
Acrylic, wood, paper, wooden box with hinged lid
4 x 13 x 11 in / 10.2 x 33 x 27.9 cm
Courtesy of Zürcher Gallery, NY / Paris

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Lisa Beck
Eclipse, 1988
oil on linen
48 x 40 in / 121.9 x 101.6 cm
Courtesy of the Artist

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Lisa Beck
Around the Day in 80 Worlds, 1988
oil on linen
48 x 40 in / 121.9 x 101.6 cm
Courtesy of the Artist

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Emery Blagdon
Untitled, c. 1954-1986
Oil based enamel on wood
12.5 x 7 in / 31.8 x 17.8 cm
Courtesy of Cavin-Morris Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Emery Blagdon
Untitled painting, c. 1954-1986
Oil based enamel on wood
12 x 8 in / 30.5 x 20.3 cm
Courtesy of Cavin-Morris Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Emery Blagdon
Element 07, c 1954-1986
Wood, copper wire
5.75 x 5.75 x .75 in / 14.6 x 14.6 x 1.9 cm
Courtesy of Cavin-Morris Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Emery Blagdon
Element 08, c.1954-1986
Wood, copper wire
5.75 x 5.75 x .75 in /14.6 x 14.6 x 1.9 cm
Courtesy of Cavin-Morris Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Jonathan Lasker
Deep Purple, 1984
Oil on Canvas
64 x 50 in / 163 x 127 cm
Courtesy of Greene Naftali, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

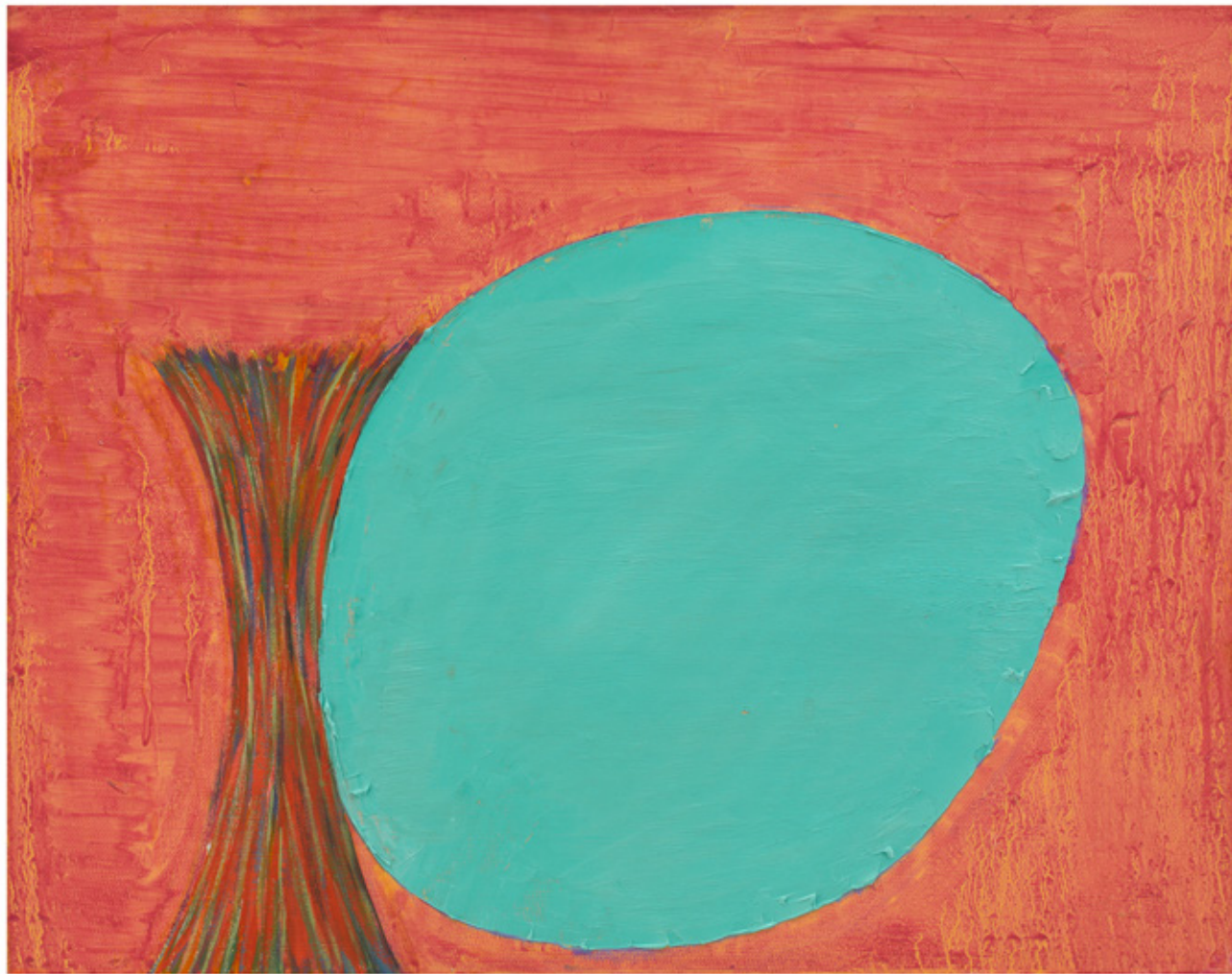
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Chris Martin
Temple, 1985
Oil on canvas
16 x 14 in / 41 x 36 cm
Courtesy of Anton Kern Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Thomas Nozkowski
Untitled (6-15-B), 1986
Oil on canvas board
16 x 20 in / 40.6 cm x 50.8 cm
Courtesy of Pace Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

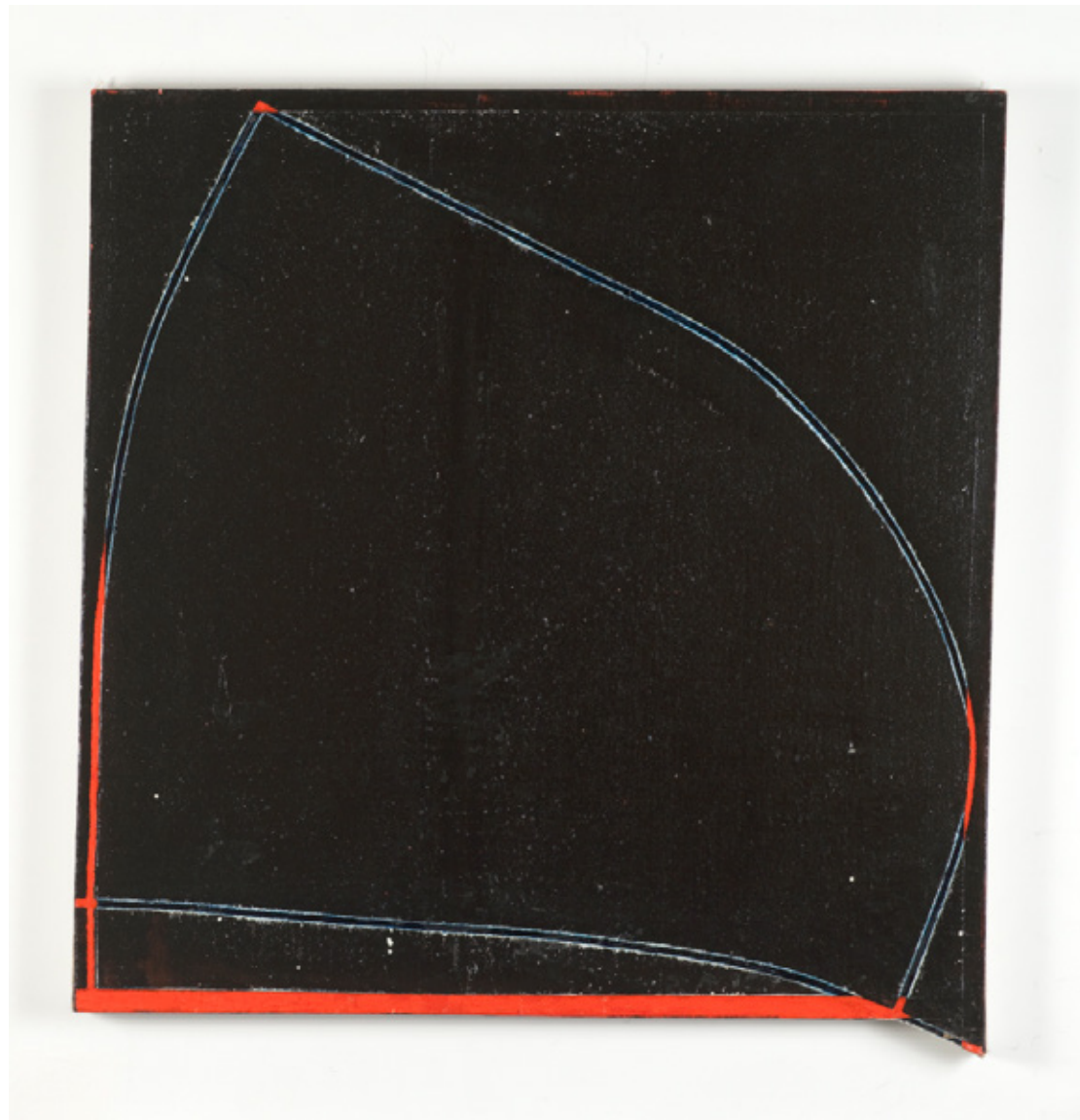
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Thomas Nozkowski
Untitled (6-53), 1988
Oil on canvas board
16 x 20 in / 40.6 cm x 50.8 cm
Courtesy of Pace Gallery, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Harvey Quaytman

Tip, 1981

Acrylic on canvas

35 x 33 in / 89 x 84 cm

Courtesy of the Harvey Quaytman Trust and Van Doren Waxter, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s

curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

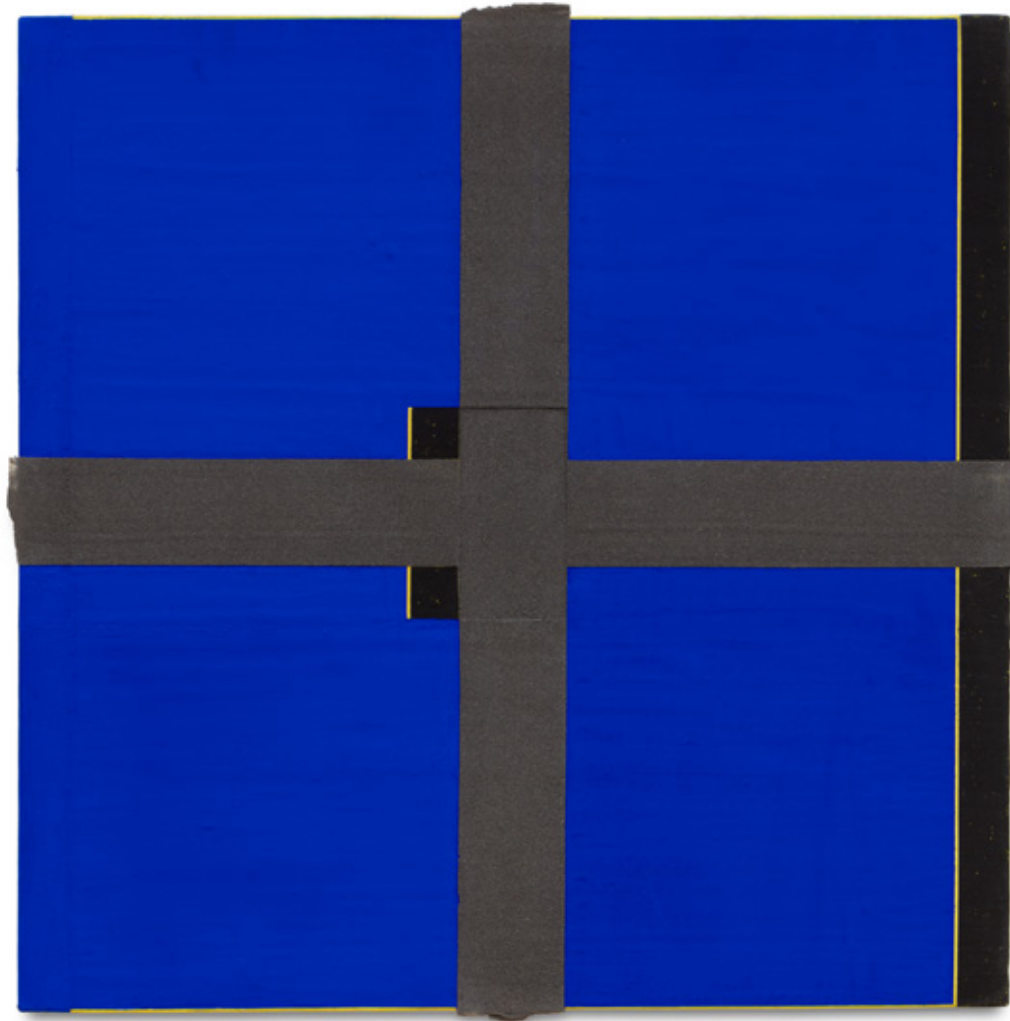
33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012

PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784

STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM

WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM

TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM



Harvey Quaytman
Hotel Regina Revisited, II, 1986
Acrylic and iron on canvas
28.5 x 28.5 in / 72 x 72 cm
Courtesy of the Harvey Quaytman Trust and Van Doren Waxter, NY

The Phoenix and the Mountain: In-centric Abstraction in the 80s
curated by Choghakate Kazarian, May 13 - June 13, 2021

ZÜRCHER GALLERY

33 BLEECKER STREET NEW YORK, NY 10012
PHONE 212.777.0790 FAX 212.777.0784
STUDIO@GALERIEZURCHER.COM
WWW.GALERIEZURCHER.COM
TUES-SAT 12 - 6 PM AND SUN 2 - 6 PM