

DOLBY CHADWICK GALLERY

Alex Kanevsky *Fin de Siècle*

Dolby Chadwick Gallery is pleased to announce Alex Kanevsky's new show *Fin de Siècle*.

Kanevsky is adamant that paintings can never be described by words because their language is fundamentally visual and not verbal. To him, paintings are not expressions of pre-conceived notions, ideas, or even thought processes; in fact, he believes that they resist any conceptualization—but what then is Kanevsky's work about? If it is neither representational nor narrative nor symbolic, what is it that drives his vision?

In Kanevsky's paintings the subject and the background often blur and melt into each other; bodies appear fractured, partially formed, either obscured by a flurry of colors or dissolving into darkness; the landscapes expand limitless and even in scenes that seem to take place inside, the visual field is undivided, open-ended as if confined by the borders of the canvas rather than structured by the order of things inside. It's a world in which light, color, and movement almost always take precedent over form and shape.

We are looking at a world in which the raw sense data are not yet fully filtered and formatted through the concepts of our language, where we look at the things the way we actually see them rather at what our idea of them is. It's a world in which the sensual is on the verge of just becoming conscious.

This becoming is a fluid, amorphous process. Sometimes a figure is nearly fully formed, sometimes we can only sense it, and sometimes we see it in various stages of taking shape. This fluidity and amorphousness injects a sense of mystery into the paintings, but more importantly: it engenders a breathtaking sense of possibility. Often, we don't know if a shape or a color is about to fade into the background or emerging from it, whether it will become water, sky or light, become a body or maybe several bodies. Kanevsky's is a world in which the sensual still holds a multitude of possibilities, and we are witnesses to the act of becoming.

Visual language, Kanevsky says, is odd; it has no set rules or grammar, and almost nobody speaks it completely fluently. Yet, its effect on us is powerful. Similar to music, visual language can reach into a realm that is infinitely subtle and supple, that is capable of expressing emotional climates, sense perceptions and vague notions, a realm that can capture and render everything which affects us so profoundly precisely because it eludes definition.

In rare cases, Kanevsky asserts, the visual language speaks with an exquisite crystalline clarity, it allows for the kind of opening that can only emerge when we are completely free and unencumbered by conventional rules. Kanevsky's artistic struggle, hence, is "to find clarity," to go beyond what we think we see to how it

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really appears to us, to remove the layers and layers of conceptualization that are preventing us from seeing. It's been called the fundamental task of human kind 'to give names to things'; Kanevsky artistic aim is to go back beyond the names to the things the way they feel and appear before our perception has been splintered and fractured.

Alex Kanevsky was born in 1963 in Russia. As a teenager he moved with his family to Lithuania where he studied theoretical mathematics at Vilnius University. In the early 80', he moved to the US and eventually studied painting at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts.

His background left him with one foot in the Russian and Eastern European tradition and the other the American lineage – none, however, too firmly planted. His work, he says, is influenced by a wide range of artists, writers, composers, potters, and filmmakers from Velasquez to Joseph Beuys, from James Joyce to Cormac McCarthy, Tarkovsky to Kaurismäki.

Kanevsky has had over 20 solo exhibitions and won more than a dozen awards for his work. He has been widely written about across the art world; in 2016, the DCG publication *Alex Kanevsky* won the Independent Publisher Book Award.

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Alex Kanevsky

b. Rostvo-na-Donu, Russia 1963

EDUCATION

1989-1993 Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA

1980-1983 Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2018 Fin de Siècle, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 Some Paintings in No Particular Order, Hollis Taggart Galleries, New York, NY
- 2015 Unstable Equilibrium, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2014 Beautiful and Profound Paintings, J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY
Alex Kanevsky, Scarfone/Hartly Gallery at University of Tampa, FL
- 2013 The Fox and The Hedgehog, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2012 Lux Art Institute, San Diego, CA
- 2011 Heroes and Animals, J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY
- 2010 Heroes and Animals, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2009 Proserpine, J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY
- 2008 Waves & X-Rays, Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2008 Visitations, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2007 Parlor Games, J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY
- 2006 Paintings, Galerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Canada
- 2005 Instances of Stillness, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
New Paintings, J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY
- 2004 Photographs, Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Short Focus Paintings, Somerville Manning Gallery, Greenville, DE
- 2003 Short Focus Paintings, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Mediated Pleasures, J. Cacciola Galleries, New York, NY
- 2002 Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 2001 Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
J. Cacciola Galleries, New York, NY
- 2000 Overwhelmed Portraiture, Philadelphia Art Alliance
Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1999 Strong Light Paintings, Somerville Manning Gallery, Greenville, DE
- 1998 Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1997 Motion Paintings, Merrimack College, Andover, MA
Somerville Manning Gallery, Greenville, DE
- 1996 Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
- 1995 Rosenfeld Gallery, Philadelphia, PA

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SELECTED GROUP SHOWS

- 2018 *L'etat Des Limbes*, Alex Kanevsky and Edwige Fouvry, Galerie Guido Romero Pierni, Paris, France
- 2017 *Artist As Subject: 20th Anniversary Exhibition*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 *Uncatchable*, Guido Romero Pierini Galerie, Paris, France
- 2013 National Arts Club, NY, NY, *Body Politic*, curated by Courtney Jordan & Kristin Künc Asheville Art Museum, Asheville, N.C., *The Philadelphia Story*
- 2012 Royal Society of British Artists, London, U.K., *Annual Show*, invited guest artist
- 2011 *Accumulations*, J. Cacciola, New York, NY,
- 2010 *Remnants*, Fuse Gallery, New York, NY
Visual Voices, Stedman Gallery, Rutgers University
- 2009 *Fine Artists of Accomplishment*, Somerville Manning Gallery
- 2008 *Into Your Head*, Hopkinson House Gallery of Contemporary Art, Haddon Township, NJ
Painterly Painting: The Next Level, The Art Museum of Los Gatos, CA
Edwards Art Gallery, Holderness School, Plymouth, N.H.
- 2007 *10 Year Anniversary*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Finding a Form – Influences in Figurative Painting Tower Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
True Love Always, curated by Rebecca Campbell, Angles Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 2006 *Bader Fund, The First Three Years*, Brady Art Gallery, G. Washington University, Washington, D.C.
Art 212 New York, NY
- 2005 *Very Early Pictures*, Arcadia University Art Gallery, Glenside, PA
Figura, Gallerie de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Canada
- 2004 *Pittura e fotografia dal punto di vista dell'occhio moderno*, Castell Welsperg, Italy
Works on Paper 2004, Arcadia University Art Gallery, Glenside, PA
Paintings & Photographs (together with Jon Redmond) J. Cacciola Gallery, New York, NY
- 2003 *Mostra di Opere in Formato Piccolo*, Casa Wassermann, Villabassa, Italy
- 2001 *Form & Figure*, J. Cacciola Galleries, New York
- 1999 *The Edge of Vision, The Edge of Sight*, Montserrat College of Art, Beverly, MA
- 1998 *Pertaining to Philadelphia*, Mulligan-Shanoski Gallery, San Francisco, CA
Through The Heart Of The City, Art Alliance, Philadelphia, PA
- 1997 *Contemporary Landscape*, Berman Museum of Art - Ursinus College, Bucknell University
- 1994 *Double Exposure*, curated by Dore Ashton, Pleiades Gallery, New York, NY

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PUBLICATIONS

- John Seed, *Interrupted Images: Discombobulation In Painting Is Definitely A Thing*, Huffington Post, September 2016
- David M. Roth, Review, *Squarecylinder*, October 2015
- John Seed, Interview, Huffington Post, October 2015
- Egoista, Magazine of Art and Literature, #51, December 2013, Portugal, People and Their Bodies - pintura Alex Kanevsky
- Jacques Desage, Alex Kanevsky, *Miroir de L'Art*, France #45, 2013 (article and cover) Harper's Magazine. May 2013, Interior with Meat, cover
- Ludovic Duhamel, 100 Peintures Contemporaines, *Miroir de L'Art*, France #43, 2013
- Fine Art Connoisseur, Feb. 2013, Alex Kanevsky at Dolby Chadwick Gallery, by Allison Malafrente
- San Diego Union Tribune, June 9, 2013, Alex Kanevsky in residence at Lux Art Institute, by James Chute
- Tianjin Yangliuqing Fine Arts Press, China, Alex Kanevsky - Contemporary Painter Series monograph, 2012
- Artinmostra, Alex Kanevsky, *Doppio Sogno*, December 4, 2012
- Ilaria Bignotti, Corpi Esposti, catalog essay, Barbara Frigerio Gallery, Milan, May 2011
- Frédéric Charles Baitinger, Alex Kanevsky, *Le Hasard Manipulé*, Artension, France, May/June 2011
- Peter Selz, *Alex Kanevsky*, Art in America, January 2011
- Kenneth Baker, *Kanevsky at Dolby Chadwick Gallery*, San Francisco Chronicle, October 2010
- Polish Rider 2*, Subaltern Magazine (cover), Nr1, Sweden, 2010
- ALS with Movement*, Versal 7 (cover), Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2009
- Mario Navse, *Alex Kanevsky*, -- *Prosperine*, City Arts, NYC, May 2009
- Alexandra Bourre, *Alex Kanevsky*, Vernissages, France, January 2009
- Alex Kanevsky, 13 paintings*, Guernica, Magazine of Art & Politics, January 2009
- Peter Campion, *Painterly Painting: The Next Level*, exhibition catalog at The Art Museum of Gatos, 2008
- Al Gury, *Alla Prima Painting*, Watson & Gupil, NY 2008
- Carina Chocanom, *Synecdoche*, NY, LA Times movie review, September 2008
- Peggy's House*, Harper's Magazine (Readings), September 2009
- David Miklos, *La Hermana Falsa*, Tusquets Editores, Mexico, 2008
- Kenneth Baker, *Kanevsky in his stride*, San Francisco Chronicle, May 10, 2008
- Valerie Gladstone, *Alex Kanevsky / J.Cacciola Gallery*, Art News, reviews, September 2007
- Holly Myers, *Considering affairs of the heart*, Los Angeles Times, 3.9.2007
- Sharon Mizota, *Alex Kanevsky's paintings tell a story about how we capture time and truth*, San Francisco Weekly, Dec 28, 2005
- Mario Neves, exhibition review, The New York Observer 5.30.2005
- Tyler Benedict, *Figura* – catalog of group exhibition at the Galleries de Bellefeuille, Montreal, Canada
- Victoria Donohoe, *Painter takes cues from camera*, Philadelphia Inquirer, 3.28.2004
- Harper's Magazine. May 2004, *Fox Hunt*
- Harper's Magazine. November 2003, *T.S. in Her Bath*
- West Branch Magazine, December 2003, *Blue Horizon 3* - cover
- Robert Flynn Johnson, *Love Affair with Paint*, Dolby Chadwick Gallery catalog essay, September 2003

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New American Paintings, Number 45, May 2003

Tom Csaszar, *Observation of Time and Lived Moments: Paintings of Alex Kanevsky*, Cacciola Gallery catalog essay, 2003

New American Paintings, Number 27 cover, May 2000

Edward J. Sozanski, *Raking Light*, Philadelphia Inquirer 5.26.2000

Catherine Quillman, *Review*, Philadelphia Inquirer, 10.21.99

Victoria Donohoe, *Review*, Philadelphia Inquirer, 10.17.99

Joshua Meyer, *Review*, Art New England, 4-5.99

Superfly Artists on the Verge – 25 Artists to Watch, Philadelphia Weekly 9.23.98

Gerard Brown, *Fast, Smear and Out of Control*, Philadelphia Weekly 4.29.98

Ellen Andersen, *Motion paintings*, Haverhill Gazette, 1.15.98

Judith E. Stein, *Ars Longa, and It Keeps Changing*, Pew Fellowships in the Arts catalog, 1997

John Chambless, *Review*, Philadelphia Inquirer, 3.14.97

Tom Csaszar, *Alex Kanevsky - Rosenfeld Gallery*, New Art Examiner 5.1995

AWARDS

2012 Lux Art Institute, art residency, Encinitas, CA, USA

2008 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, painting fellowship

2007 Eagle Hill Foundation, Steuben, ME, painting residency

2006 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, painting fellowship

2004 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, painting fellowship

2003 Frantz and Virginia Bader Fund, grant for painting

The Ballinglen Arts Foundation, Ireland, residency fellowship

New American Paintings, Number 45, May 2003

2002 Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, painting fellowship

2000 New American Paintings, Number 27 cover, May 2000

1999 New American Paintings, Open Studio Competition

1997 Pew Fellowship in the Arts, painting fellowship

1994 Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT, painting fellowship

1993 Pennsylvania Governor's Award for Painting

1993 Mary Townsend & William Clarke Mason Memorial Prize in Sculpture

1992 William Emlen Cresson Memorial Travel Scholarship

Mabel Wilson Woodrow Memorial Award

Pearson Memorial Prize for Painting

SPECIAL PROJECTS AND COLLECTIONS

2010 Achenbach Collection, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, de Young & Legion of Honor, San Francisco, CA

Woodmere Museum Collection, Philadelphia, PA

2008 *Synecdoche, NY*, film directed by Charlie Kaufman – paintings for the film

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2007 *Vast Beautiful System (barely holding together)*, Jenny Jaskey Gallery (Tower), Philadelphia, PA –curating

TEACHING

2002–present Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, Adjunct Painting Instructor

2005 Governor’s Institutes on the Arts, Castleton, VT, Visiting artist

2004 Painting and Photography through the Contemporary Eye, Dobbiaco, Italy, Artist in Residence

2004 University of Delaware, Newark, DE, Visiting Artist/ Critic

2001 - 2003 Governor’s Institutes on the Arts, Castleton, VT, Painting Teacher