

KOOK PROJECTS

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John Mendelsohn: Drawings, Studies, and Works on Paper

December 5, 2014 – January 9, 2015

Kook Projects is pleased to present the first solo exhibition of drawings, studies, and works on paper from the past four decades by New York-based artist John Mendelsohn.

The exhibition focuses on his explorations of visual possibilities in a wide range of mediums. The pieces involve striking images of movement and transformation, including streaming lines, moiré patterns, vibrating discs, and glimmering dots. Color plays a crucial role in activating these shifting fields and amplifying their emotive charge.

Some of these pieces became the basis for paintings, while others remain independent works. Mendelsohn explored each abstract motif in many variations, and the exhibition includes a number of related works selected from a larger array.

Mendelsohn has written that, “Each series of work has its own character, but they are all involved with states of change. Instability and dissolution appear in many forms; absence and presence are in continual dialogue. The paint and other materials are treated physically: dissolved, combed, marbled, and scraped away.”

The earliest works are imagistic in character, and some served as studies for paintings that Mendelsohn showed at Artists Space in New York in 1977 and in the Venice Biennale in 1984. Pieces from the 1990s employ cascading enamel paint, followed by dispersions of pigment on absorbent fabric. In the 2000s, the artist focused on reiterated forms and waves of color passing across the surface, using materials including paint on reflective mylar and collaged photocopies that suggest abstract flowers. The most recent works involve layered expanses of combed white or colored lines, at times veiled by diluted black oil stick, and all-over fields of scintillating color on bubble wrap.

John Mendelsohn has shown his paintings in solo and group exhibitions over the past four decades. His exhibitions have been reviewed in the New York Times, Art in America, The Huffington Post, The New Criterion, Arts Magazine, Artnet, and dArt International Magazine. He has received grants from the National Endowment of the Arts and the Tree of Life Foundation. Mendelsohn received a BA from Columbia University in 1971, an MFA from Rutgers University in 1974, and participated in the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program. He is an adjunct professor in the Studio Art Program at Fairfield University.

Opening reception Friday, December 5, 2014 6-8pm

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