

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

Press Release for Immediate Release

CAIO FONSECA

Running from September 30 – November 17, 2010

Private View – Wednesday, September 29, 2010

6 -8pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts proudly presents an exhibition of new works by Caio Fonseca, an enigmatic tour de force in the abstract painting world. After two exhibitions at Ben Brown Fine Arts in London, Caio makes his first foray onto the Asian scene with Ben Brown in Hong Kong. An exciting exemplar of contemporary abstract painting, Caio's new works like a release of Apollonian exuberance, begin as checkerboards of light, broad stripes, and end in smooth symmetrical swathes of colour.

Caio Fonseca's bold, lyrical abstractions arise from an eccentric process that involves as much cool redaction as painterly process. For the artist, as a classically trained pianist, painting holds emotions akin to those felt listening to a concerto. Bathed in deep fleshy peach, marine blue, and emerald green tones, the paintings spontaneous configurations mime the rhythms found in musical scores. Paintings in which thick, drab fields of paint are scratched and scraped, interrupted by elongated curling shapes of bars.

"I've chosen to speak with paint and not writing, not film etc. What I have to say is very idiomatic to the potential of paint to speak in its own language... We seem to agree that music is capable of speaking for itself and a helpful invitation to my work might be to allow yourself to listen to the painting in that way," says the artist.

Fonseca developed his unique approach to painting through an unorthodox style, one that impresses the importance of the relationship between mentor and student. He studied intensively for five years in a constant state of creativity under Uruguayan painter Augusto Torres in Barcelona, Spain. As studies progressed, the lessons became intuitive and his works began to originate from an internal dialogue. This educational isolation enabled Fonseca to cultivate his unique, individual approach to painting.

The time Fonseca spent in Europe propelled him to embrace, rather than reject, twentieth-century modernist traditions. This is seen in the slight pictorial references to artists such as Wassily Kandinsky and Joan Miró. His work demonstrates a belief in the blatant physicality of paint and its relationship to the rhythm and expression which flows out of an artist. Fonseca spent eight years travelling after his formal education, finding and developing his own personal aesthetic language, and has subsequently continued refining his landscapes of pure abstraction to new levels of spatial understanding.

"Caio is a prodigy among prodigies; he's a one man band." – Martin Amis

About Caio Fonseca

Caio Fonseca, American, born 1959, was raised in New York City. For Caio, it has been a life immersed in arts and culture. Fonseca is the scion of a prominent New York clan; his Father was the acclaimed Uruguayan sculptor Gonzalo Fonseca, a student of pioneer modernist Joaquin Torres-Garcia, and his mother, Elizabeth – a daughter of former Welch's Grape Juice co-owner Jacob Kaplan, is also a painter. In 1978 he went to Barcelona where he studied and painted until 1983. He moved to Pietrasanta (Lucca) in 1985 where he worked until 1989. After two years in Paris, he returned to New York and now divides his time between Pietrasanta and his studio in Manhattan on East Fifth Street. His works are held in numerous public and private collections in Europe and the United States including the permanent collection of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art and the Smithsonian institution.

Mr. Caio Fonseca will be attending the opening exhibition night and is available for interviews.

Please direct any requests towards Ms. Whitney Ferrare at +852 2522 9600 or whitney@benbrownfinearts.com