

BEN BROWN FINE ARTS

- Press Release for immediate release -

Caio Fonseca: *New Paintings*

26th March to the 22nd May

Ben Brown Fine Arts is proud to present an exhibition of new works by Caio Fonseca, an exciting exemplar of contemporary abstract painting. This exhibition will feature a new body of work painted over the course of the past two years demonstrating how he has pushed his pictorial idiom to new and unexplored regions. A mastery of spatial potential and ambiguity is unveiled in these large and small works.

This is the second exhibition of Caio Fonseca's work to be held in the UK, and Ben Brown is thrilled to be able to expose such a pertinent, well-known artist of the New York art scene to London.

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. 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 traveling 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.

Executed on canvas and on paper, these new paintings weave positive and negative shapes in and out of each other in such a way as to set alternating forms in motion. The result reaffirms the flat physicality of the canvas while implying other less tangible spatial dimensions. The paintings' surfaces break into two planes. This aesthetic split allows the viewer to look beyond the opaque barrier of the often stone-like, cream and white colours to the shielded, vibrantly coloured base. The delineated shapes created by the opaque 'mask' cause the fascinating visual push and pull between the foreground and background.

The constant flow of rhythm and movement created in these paintings could very well be influenced by music. A musician himself, his study of classical piano composition has intensified, and to a degree, informed the expression of these works. Fonseca believes "you cannot use painting to illustrate music", however he does not fully reject its role in art; he simply merges his approach to both forms of expression in the creation of his compositions.

Fonseca lives and works in both New York, NY and Pietrasanta, Italy. Since 1991 he has exhibited widely including a traveling retrospective exhibition of his work at the Instituto Valenciano de Arte Moderno (IVAM), Valencia, Spain (2003). He is featured in the permanent collection of notable museums such as The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC; and The Brooklyn Museum, New York.

Catalogue available

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