

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GUSTAVO BONEVARDI New Watercolors

May 11 – June 11, 2018



Composition, January 10, 2018

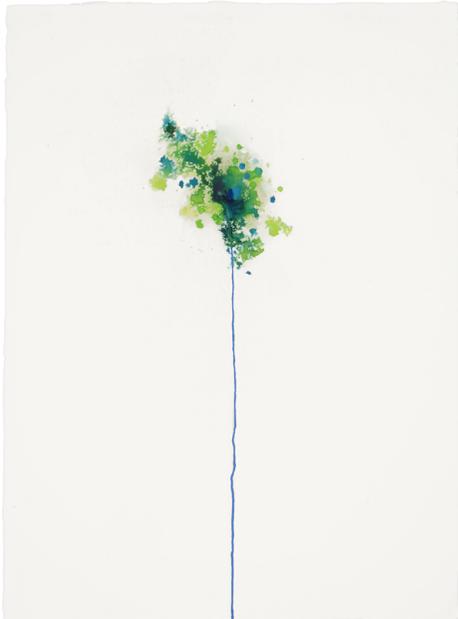


Composition, September 5, 2017

Opening May 11th and on view through June 11th, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present **GUSTAVO BONEVARDI New Watercolors**. A separate press release is available for the concurrent exhibition, **JOHN TORREANO Gold Gems Balls**. Trained as an architect and living in East Hampton and New York City, Bonevardi's creates sculpture and drawing projects that have been widely exhibited and commissioned. In this first presentation focused solely on his exuberant abstract watercolors that evoke blossoms and constellations, Bonevardi balances a process driven by chance with a meticulously choreographed technique.

In many respects Bonevardi's paintings are nontraditional watercolors. Never touching the thick Canson paper with a brush, Bonevardi seeks to "get out of the way" and let the image be a surprise. Holding eyedroppers mid-air to release drops of pigment, gravity is the critical element. Drops of Opera Rose, Windsor Red, Cerulean Blue and Potter's Pink hit the paper in sumptuous bursts of visual energy. As each splash dries the particles of color separate and a darker corona appears. Bonevardi improvises sequential drops overlapping previous ones while casting some out of the orbit of others. In these clustered explosions of saturated pigment suggestive of fireworks, his technique illuminates distinct qualities of watercolor.

The precision of Bonevardi's method echoes masters of the medium. In his reduced palette of viridian and cobalt blue, Cézanne layered translucent watery brushstrokes in patches to replicate the shimmer and sensation of light in Provence. Bonevardi, by contrast, is less interested in transparency and more in the spontaneity of his technique to disperse his saturated palette. His calculated bursts of pure pigment seemingly supported by flowing stems, evoke memories of gardens in bloom. Georgia O'Keeffe's watercolors of individual iris or calla lily have the pungency of Bonevardi's color while both artists find distinct ways to express the life force in their water-based pigments.



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Working in East Hampton where action painting flourished and the originality of one's gesture mattered, Bonevardi uses the eye dropper, gravity and chance to explore composition as experiment. His respect for the whiteness of his paper gives the action of his painting a stark intensity. In these delicately composed splashes of pure pigments the origin of the cosmos comes to mind.

Bonevardi's art in other mediums includes incised basalt stone sculpture, conceptual drawings constructed with letters of the alphabet and numerous site-specific art works. Among his public works, the most important is *Tribute in Light, World Trade Center*, which recurs annually in commemoration of September 11th.

www.drawingroom-gallery.com

Gallery Hours: Friday through Monday 11-5, and by appointment

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