

RICHMOND BURTON
The Horizon Paintings

From May 4 through June 4, 2007, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present *Richmond Burton: The Horizon Paintings*, a new series of densely patterned oils on panel with striking prismatic light effects. A concurrent installation of Stephen Antonakos's *Incomplete Blue Neon Square* (1974) and related drawings from the mid-1970s in the adjacent gallery provides a minimalist foil for Burton's sumptuously painted abstractions.

Each of Burton's small horizontal panels from the current series is divided into two predominant color zones that meet along a horizon line and evoke references to the sea and sky of East Hampton where he has lived and worked since 1998. Powerful and autonomous as abstractions, they are also lyrical evocations of water and refracted light in palettes which range from indigo blues overlaid with white and gold accents, to hot reds punctuated by aqua and lavender. The nuanced tension in the flickering surface is built from short brushstrokes, which, like fleeting waves, capture both light and depths of color across the shimmering picture plane. Each composition includes a tapered band of silver pigment along the lower edge, which acts as both an invitation to enter the space of the painting and an assertive reminder of its illusory nature.

Burton was born in Talladega, Alabama in 1960. After studying architecture at Rice University, he spent his first years in New York working for IM Pei and Associates. While working for Pei, he began to pursue painting, and in 1987 had his first solo show in Manhattan. Burton is represented by Cheim & Read in New York where he has been the subject of four solo shows since joining the gallery in 1997. His work is included in numerous museum collections, among them The Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Art Institute of Chicago, and The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles.

Stephen Antonakos, an artist known for his signature neon installations, neon panels, and architectural meditation spaces as well as a rigorous body of drawings, divides his time between New York and Sag Harbor. Whether composing with neon in a three-dimensional space, or allowing a drawing to evolve on what he describes as "the site" of the page, Antonakos carefully guides viewers through a unique and transcendent spatial experience.

Born in Greece in 1926, Antonakos moved to the United States as a young child. The artist began to investigate neon in the 1960s, intrigued by its compelling color in the streets of New York and by its three-dimensional linear potential. In addition to numerous international public and private commissions, his work is included in many museum collections, among them The Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Milwaukee Art Museum.

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