

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2013

CAIO FONSECA

new paintings on paper



Pietrasanta P13.74, 2013, gouache on paper, 14 x 14 in



Pietrasanta P13.75, 2013, gouache on paper, 16 x 12 in

From August 16 through September 30, The Drawing Room in East Hampton is pleased to present **CAIO FONSECA new paintings on paper**, an exhibition featuring abstract gouaches created in the artist's studio in Pietrasanta, Italy. A native New Yorker, Fonseca divides his time between Italy, New York City and the South Fork.

Fonseca mines fresh territory in this new body of work, which is distinct in its elegant simplicity and rich palette. Evolving over three decades, his painterly language invokes not only the eloquence of pure abstraction, but a robust corporeality as well. A classically trained pianist, Fonseca has an eye as well as an ear for pure abstraction. In the current paintings he orchestrates the compositional elements with a radical sense of economy, setting in motion a visual experience that unfolds moment by moment in the viewer's eye. This sense of movement activates the picture field in which bold, rhythmic swaths of color dance across textured white grounds recalling Mediterranean light. Incised linear striations raked across the surface create a subtle horizontal articulation that holds the strong cascading forms in check.

In constructing his paintings, Fonseca employs an array of unique tools that include everything from pie cutters to composer's nibs, integrated with varied mediums. His non-representational imagery is assembled in tight compositions that often feel strung together, as if connected by a complex system of threads. The elements slip in and out of deep space, sharing the image field in a strategic and architectural amalgam of foreground and background. In *Pietrasanta P13.74*, Fonseca's brushwork is fluid and brisk, with the sort of liquidity that reveals a masterful hand. As soft curves and narrow channels fuse among expanses of textured ground, the imagery coheres into a rhythmic, animated synergy.

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The son of a painter and sculptor, Caio Fonseca grew up in an atmosphere of creative distinction. As a young artist he spent five years in Barcelona studying under Augusto Torres, son of the modernist pioneer Joaquin Torres-Garcia. From there he lived and worked in Uruguay, moving on to Pietrasanta, Italy in 1985.

Caio Fonseca has exhibited widely across the United States and in Italy, Spain and Sweden, and was the subject of a 2005 retrospective at the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, DC. In 2003, the Institut Valenciá d'Art Modern in Spain mounted a large survey of his work. He is represented in numerous museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the Smithsonian Institution and the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden.

www.drawingroom-gallery.com

Gallery hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10-5; Sunday 11-5

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