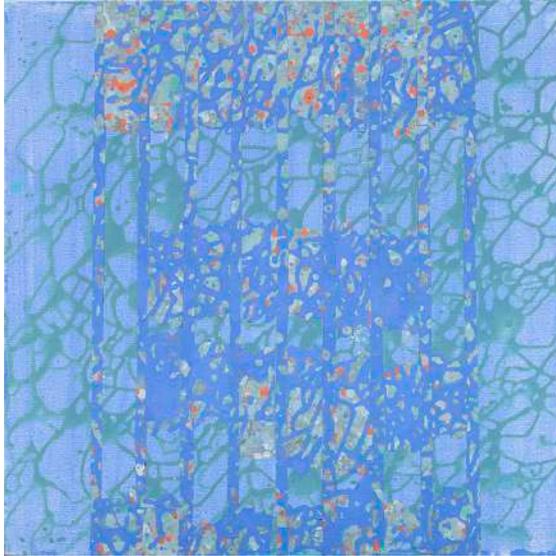


PRESS RELEASE

HECTOR LEONARDI Allora

April 21 – May 25, 2020



Cool Climate, 2019 acrylic on canvas, 24 x 24 in



Grigio, 2019 acrylic on canvas, 18 x 18 in

The Drawing Room is pleased to announce an online presentation of new paintings by Hector Leonardi with an illustrated digital catalog on the gallery's website: www.drawingroom-gallery.com. While the gallery remains closed temporarily, we encourage those on the East End to keep an eye on our storefront window at 55 Main Street for a changing selection of exhibition highlights.

Hector Leonardi (b. 1930) lives in Bridgehampton, New York, where his light-filled studio in a converted potato barn is bordered by gardens and farmland. The artist began spending time on Long Island's East End in the 1970s, renting a house on the cliffs of Montauk with 360° views of the ocean. While teaching at the Parsons School of Design over the next two decades, he divided his time between Long Island and Manhattan, where he maintained a studio in the city's bustling flower district. His work has been widely exhibited and collected, both in the United States and Europe.

The unexpected and nuanced palettes of Leonardi's recent paintings reveal the central role of color theory in his practice, an enduring trace of his graduate studies with Josef Albers during the 1950s at Yale University. Inspired by the infinite optical possibilities of abstract painting, his inventive approach to the acrylic medium evolves intuitively through a combination of direct brushwork and collage. Working on both intimate and large format canvases, Leonardi imbues each composition with exuberant shifting light effects, modulating tone and texture to attain a sensuous visual harmony.

Close viewing reveals dried pigment fragments arranged in layers that form palimpsests of delicate, subtle geometries. The fluid blue structures in *Cool Climate* recall intricate lacework dotted with persimmon touches. By contrast, the bold impact of *Grayor* and *Grigio* derives from the physical accumulation of acrylic on the highly textured, yet monochromatic picture surface.

Leonardi's distinctive additive process affords him license to incorporate materials that might otherwise be discarded. Pigment stained paper towels and scraps of corrugated cardboard appear intermittently, and spark new avenues for image making. In creating his most recent paintings, the artist flicked paint-filled brushes directly toward the canvas, achieving a spectrum of pointillist splatters that pulse across the picture plane in a dynamic and lyrical cacophony.

For further information and reproduction quality images
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