

JACK CEGLIC **Plated** *A Food Diary 2020-2024*

April 5 – May 13, 2024

The Drawing Room is pleased to present an exhibition of new works on paper by contemporary American artist Jack Ceglic. Recognized for his extensive exploration of portraiture in oil, crayon and other mediums, Ceglic turned to still life in early 2020, embarking on an immersive series about food, a seminal through-line in the artist's life and work.



Untitled (String Beans, Nova, Zucchini), 2020, 19 x 24 in.



Untitled (White & Dark Chocolate), 2020, 19 x 24 in.

As a child, Ceglic absorbed his earliest lessons in cooking while observing his grandmother in the kitchen. Likewise, helping at his mother's Brooklyn grocery store and shopping at neighborhood produce stands, butchers and seafood markets instilled rich, formative impressions. His memories about food became enduring touchstones, informing the course of his professional life following his graduation from Parsons School of Design with a degree in painting and illustration.

By the 1960s, Ceglic was exhibiting in New York and Los Angeles, and like other artists of his generation, creating commissioned paintings that were staged in department store windows. In 1977, he joined Joel Dean and Giorgio DeLuca in launching SoHo's legendary emporium, Dean & DeLuca. In his role as a founder, he pioneered innovations that established the brand's unique identity and simultaneously redefined the aesthetics of cuisine. With the growing business underway, Ceglic maintained a studio nearby where he conducted portrait sessions of friends, colleagues, and new acquaintances.

The larger-than-life oil stick drawings spotlighted in this exhibition reflect Ceglic's virtuosity as both a visual and culinary artist. In the ongoing series, each composition captures the immediacy and tactility that govern his sensory choices -- from unexpected combinations of seasonal ingredients and flavors to deliberate arrangements on the plate that maximize harmonies of color, form and texture. Comprising visceral depictions of poultry and seafood reminiscent of Chaim Soutine and James Ensor, sensual

(over)

renderings of fruits and vegetables that reveal his love of Henri Matisse, and monumental abstractions of chocolates and cake, Ceglic's painterly *food diary* is an expansive chronicle that echoes the passage of time, shifting appetites and the profound cultural resonance of food. In its entirety, the exhibition offers a poignant self-portrait of the artist who channels exacting discipline and command of his medium into expressionistic still lifes that are much more than the sum of their parts.



Jack Ceglic in his East Hampton studio, March 2024 photo: Jenny Gorman

Jack Ceglic divides his time between New York City and East Hampton. His paintings and drawings have been exhibited at galleries in New York, Los Angeles and Houston. His portraits are the subject of the monograph, *Jack 2009-2012* (Pointed Leaf Press, 2013). *Mother Store*, his 2014 installation at FiveMyles Gallery in Brooklyn was an homage to his mother's grocery store. His architectural projects, which have been widely published, include homes and studios for artists and writers.

For further information and reproduction quality images, please contact Candace Whitman.

Telephone 631 324.5016 | info@drawingroom-gallery.com

Please note our current gallery hours are Friday, Saturday and Monday 11 to 5, and Sunday 12 to 4.