



Creighton Michael: Paintings 1995-1998

November 2, 1998 - January 24, 1999

Creighton Michael has made a shift in his creation from sculpture to exclusively painting and drawing in recent years. For the artist, who sees each mode of expression as utterly non-hierarchical, the maneuver between the two- to three-dimensional, or vice versa, comes without struggle.

The power of abstract representation is in the communication of form that has an appeal akin to, yet beyond, ordered visual recognition. The visual vocabularies of Michael's painting are literally derived from nature. He transforms them into markings that, despite their seemingly rote size, space, and simplicity, employ the encyclopedic varieties with which the wrist can choreograph paint and brush on canvas.

Incorporating ideas such as surrealist automatism, chance theory, and the aesthetics of the Japanese garden, each mark on the canvas is spontaneously applied from unit to unit as each calligraphic filament is added to the evolving whole. The proportionate play of chance and nature is particularly amplified in his use of unprimed, mold-stained canvas stitched together in *Haiku* (1996-97).

Q (1995), the earliest work in this show, is a group of four triptychs titled *Still, Stir, Dream* and *Sleep*, representing the four seasons. Some of the shapes observed in these canvases that may hint at familiar elements in the natural world are nowhere detectable in *Notation* (1998), in which the artist achieves a maximized ambiguity of form and depth.

Creighton Michael's representation of nature thus transforms it into a multifaceted presence. Be it an underwater life formation or a dazzling constellation in the sky, what appears to be a complex surface of nature becomes a translucent membrane with an inner reality that is perceptible through a slight shift of viewing position, both physical and psychological. The subtlety in Michael's abstract spectacles expresses something of and about nature that strikes a chord in human nature – a reflex prompted by the conflation of intellectual understanding and instinctive wonder.

Hitomi Iwasaki
Curatorial Assistant

QUEENS MUSEUM OF ART at *Bulova Corporate Center*

About the Artist

Creighton Michael received his B.F.A. in Painting from University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, an M.A. in Art History from Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, and an M.F.A. in Painting/Multimedia from Washington University, St. Louis, MO. He is a recipient of a Pollock-Krasner Foundation grant and a New York Foundation for the Arts fellowship. He has had solo shows at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, GA, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, and Katonah Museum of Art, Katonah, NY, and in most recent years at Kim Foster Gallery, New York, NY; group exhibitions include *1994 National Drawing Invitational*, Arkansas Arts Center, Little Rock, AK, *Innovation in Sculpture*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Aldrich, NY, and *Inspired by Nature* at the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase, NY. Forthcoming solo exhibitions at Galerie Trois Points, Montreal, Quebec, and Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, VA, are scheduled in 1999. The artist lives in Mt. Kisco, NY, and works in New York City.

A satellite branch of the Queens Museum of Art is located in the west and south concourse galleries of the Bulova Corporate Center.

The work of individual artists is presented in three solo exhibitions each year. This program is sponsored by LaGuardia Corporate Center Associates and the Queens Museum of Art.

GALLERY HOURS

Monday - Friday, 7 AM - 7 PM

Saturday, 10 AM - 4 PM

INFORMATION

(718) 899-0700

DIRECTIONS

By Car: *From Long Island*, Grand Central Parkway West to Exit 5, Marine Air Terminal. Left at traffic light onto Ditmars Boulevard (which becomes 82nd Street). Continue to 25th Avenue, turn right on 25th Avenue to entrance on right (between 75th and 76th Streets).

By Car: *From Manhattan*, Brooklyn Queens Expressway East or Grand Central Parkway East to Exit 39, Astoria Boulevard/Marine Air Terminal. Continue to 80th Street and turn right. Take 80th Street to 25th Avenue, turn right. Entrance on right (between 75th and 76th Streets).

By Public Transportation: Take E, F, G, R, or 7 subway to 74th/Roosevelt Avenue in Queens and walk 8 blocks north or take Q47 bus to 25th Avenue and 77th Street.

The Queens Museum of Art, located in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, presents changing art exhibitions and education programs. For more information, please call (718) 592-9700.

Queens Museum of Art
New York City Building
Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Queens, NY 11368-3398



The satellite gallery program at the Bulova Corporate Center is sponsored by the Laguardia Corporate Center Associates and the Queens Museum of Art. The Queens Museum of Art is housed in the New York City Building which is owned by the City of New York. With the assistance of Queens Borough President Claire Shulman and the New York City Council, the Museum is supported in part by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs. Additional funding is provided by the New York State Legislature and the New York State Council on the Arts.

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