

LENNON, WEINBERG, INC.

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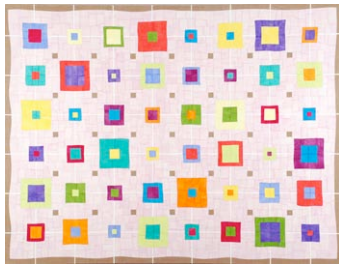
Richard Kalina

New Paintings and Watercolors

March 26 - May 2, 2009

Opening reception Thursday March 26, 6-8 pm

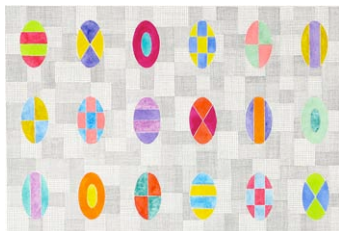
Tuesday - Saturday 10-6



Pearl of the Indies, 2009
46 x 60", collage, acrylic, flashe on linen



Cythera, 2008
36-1/2 x 45-1/2", collage, acrylic,
flashe on linen



The Palace Gates, 2009
22-1/2 x 30", watercolor and ink on paper

Richard Kalina's paintings and drawings have been presented at Lennon Weinberg regularly since 1993. In this new exhibition, Kalina opens his highly organized and meticulously crafted works to a new spirit of irregularity.

As he has for the past ten years, Kalina collages his compositions using painted paper. Building on a foundation of linen over board, he carefully measures, masks and paints a bright white ground on top of which he overlaps semi-transparent pieces of paper painted in a range of vivid colors. The white ground reflects light back through the sheer layer of color, resulting in bright, lively paintings that suggest mosaics or stained glass. A new aspect of the paintings, however, is the way Kalina plays against the small squares of exposed linen and trim white lines that define a regular grid in each of the paintings. For example, the diagonal bands that appear in *Cythera* compress the structure and the various-sized concentric squares of *Pearl of the Indies* warp the planar space of the painting.

Several of the new ink and watercolor drawings were made during Kalina's recent fellowship at the Bogliasco Foundation in Genoa, Italy and were shaped by his response to the architecture and environment. They are made on heavyweight textured Arches watercolor paper with deckled edges and achieve a strong presence as physical objects. The topography of the surface plays against the details of the lines, shapes and colors in a way that emphasizes the touch of the artist's hand.

Richard Kalina is a Professor of Art at Fordham University and a Contributing Editor at *Art in America* magazine. He lives and works in New York and East Hampton.

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