



Jack Whitten, *The Tenth Loop*, 2012, acrylic on canvas, 16.88 x 17 in
Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe, *The Sun Comes Out*, 2011, oil on linen, 66.5 x 17.5 in

FRIEZE ART FAIR

May 4–7, 2012, Stand F21, Randall’s Island, New York, NY

Alexander Gray Associates is pleased to announce the Gallery’s participation in Frieze Art Fair New York, featuring an exhibition of new abstract paintings and works on paper by Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe and Jack Whitten. Shown together for the first time, both artists are critical examiners of abstract painting and artistic methodology. Linking the practices of drawing and experimental painting, the Gallery’s presentation of works by the two artists invites viewers to consider formal and metaphorical implications of composition and geometry, control and chance, process and evidence.

Through multiple practices as a painter, critic and educator, **Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe** has challenged contemporary ideas of aesthetics and purpose in art since the 1970s. His highly-regarded writings on abstraction have fueled vital discourse around beauty and the role of post-Modern painting, drawing connections between art history, philosophy, fashion, and architecture. In his drawings and paintings, Gilbert-Rolfe collapses and re-arranges the Modernist grid, intensifying and breaking down color, line and movement. On view are recently completed oil on linen paintings and gouache on paper drawings.

Gilbert-Rolfe is the author of numerous essays and books, including *Art After Deconstruction* (Taringa, 2011); *Beauty and the Contemporary Sublime* (Allworth Press, 2000) and *Beyond Piety: Critical Essays on the Visual Arts 1986–1993* (Cambridge University Press, 1995). His work is included in prestigious public collections, including the Albright-Knox Gallery of Art, Buffalo, NY; The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami; and the Frederick R. Weisman Foundation in Los Angeles and Minneapolis. He has been awarded National Endowment for the Arts fellowships in painting and criticism as well as a Guggenheim Fellowship in painting, and was presented the 1998 Frank Jewett Mather Award for Art Criticism by the College Art Association. He is Chair of graduate studies at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, California and is a visiting tutor for the Royal Academy of Art in London.

Since the 1970s **Jack Whitten** has consistently pushed the structural capacities of acrylic paint in producing large-scale minimalist abstractions, using tools to pull, squeeze, and rake color and texture. Beginning in the late 1980s, he has combined acrylic with various pigments and materials, cut and laid like ancient mosaic, or cast sculpturally. For Frieze New York, freshly produced “acrylic collages” are on view, which incorporate a black and white palette with an exploration of distilled geometry. Also on view are technically innovative works on paper which further push the medium of acrylic and its translucent and sculptural abilities.

Whitten’s work was included in the 1969 and 1972 *Whitney Annuals*, the landmark 1971 exhibition, *Contemporary Black Artists in America* at the Whitney Museum, *Energy/Experimentation: Black Artists and Abstraction 1964–1980* at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2006); *High Times Hard Times: New York Painting 1967–1975*, organized by Independent Curators International (2006); and *Greater New York/The Comfort of Strangers*, MoMA/PS1 (2010). His work is in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; the Studio Museum in Harlem, New York; the Birmingham Museum of Art; Harvard University Art Museums, Cambridge, MA; the High Museum of Art, Atlanta; the Cleveland Museum of Art; and the Dallas Museum of Art.

Alexander Gray Associates is a contemporary art gallery based in New York. The gallery has established a profile for high-quality exhibitions focused on mid-career artists who emerged in the 1960s, 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s. Influential in political, social and cultural spheres, these artists are notable for creating work that crosses geographic borders, generational contexts and artistic disciplines.