



DARIUS YEKTAI

Unbounded by rules, yet informed by art history AND his family's tradition of Abstract Expressionism, Darius Yektai's latest work is at once an homage to tradition while also being a journey of experimentation. The Grenning Gallery is pleased to welcome the Latest Works of Darius Yektai (b.1973, Southampton, NY) as he returns for his third annual Solo Show.

Yektai's urge to paint is innate; an affinity for the medium surges through his veins, as he is the son of the longest-lived Abstract Expressionist from the East End's mid-century modern art movement. He is a direct descendant of the Action Painting movement, with a shared obsession with the "materiality of paint" that Pollock and DeKooning embodied out here in the Hamptons.



"Darius Yektai in his Sag Harbor Studio, 2022" photo by Gary Mamay

Yektai's work this year demonstrates how inspired he is by our local environment – ever expanding his creative ambit. In pure Grenning Gallery fashion, he found himself motivated to paint out-of-doors, or en-plein-air. We see the beginning of a series of local landscapes where the AbEx meets the Impressionist and the party begins. In a Surrealist overlay, Yektai integrates his florals into, and ONTO the plein air landscapes. We see hints of Van Gogh's early countryside drawings in "Parsonage Field" and then an explosion of luscious unrestrained fistfuls of smeared colored brushstrokes in "On the Hill". The latter technique is a direct homage to his own father's work.

In his frenzy of action painting, we now see Yektai veering off into pure abstraction, while also utilizing his degree in Art History from The American University in Paris to the fullest extent. As one meanders through this new series, Yektai re-asserts techniques and tones from the past like Pointillism from Seurat to Patterning from Bonnard, as seen in "Nasturtium" and "Black Table" respectively. He continues to investigate the Falling Flower theme with two large works that could hang vertically or horizontally.

Few contemporary painters are brave enough to re-approach the Waterlily theme, given Monet's fame. Yektai's blow out Solo show last year on this theme, inspired a deeper investigation yielding larger works like "Silver Pond", more creative canvases like "Red Lily" and more experimental color and brush work as seen in "Waterlilies on Yellow Abstract" and "Waterlilies on Pink Abstract".

Patient observers of art history unfolding before our very eyes,

Laura Grenning and Megan Toy
April 2022

COVER: Detail of "On the Hill," 48 x 36 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022 (Page 9)

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Scan to see Darius Yektai's most recent works.



26 Main Street, Sag Harbor, New York
631-725-8469
www.grenninggallery.com



“Blue Wave”
11 x 14 inches, Oil on Linen, 2021



“Daniels Lane”
36 x 48 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



“Calla Lily on Yellow Glass Table”
32.5 x 36.5 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



“Blue Flowers in Black Vase”
24 x 36 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



“Highland Terrace”
55 x 77 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



"African Violets on Sag Field"
19 x 14 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



"Pool"
14 x 11 inches, Oil on Linen, 2021



"Blue Spin"
72 x 60 inches, Oil on Canvas, 2021



“Sag Beach Orchid”
18 x 23 inches, Oil and Resin on Canvas, 2021



“Geraniums on Sag Pond”
20 x 24 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



“On the Hill”
48 x 36 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



“Untitled Abstraction”
32 x 38 inches, Oil, Acrylic and Cement on Linen, 2022



“Calla Lilies on Crooked Pond”
60 x 72 inches, Oil on Linen, 2022



“Nasturtium Diptych”
28 x 44 inches, Oil and Acrylic on Linen, 2021



“Flower Diptych”
20 x 32 inches, Oil on Linen, 2022



“Red on Red”
50 x 50 inches, Oil, Pastel and Resin on Canvas, 2022



"Glass Table"
20 x 24 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



"The Patio Lesson"
72 x 78 inches, Oil on Linen, 2020



"Parsonage Field," 77 x 110 inches, Oil, Acrylic and Resin on Canvas, 2021



"Black Table"
24 x 20 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



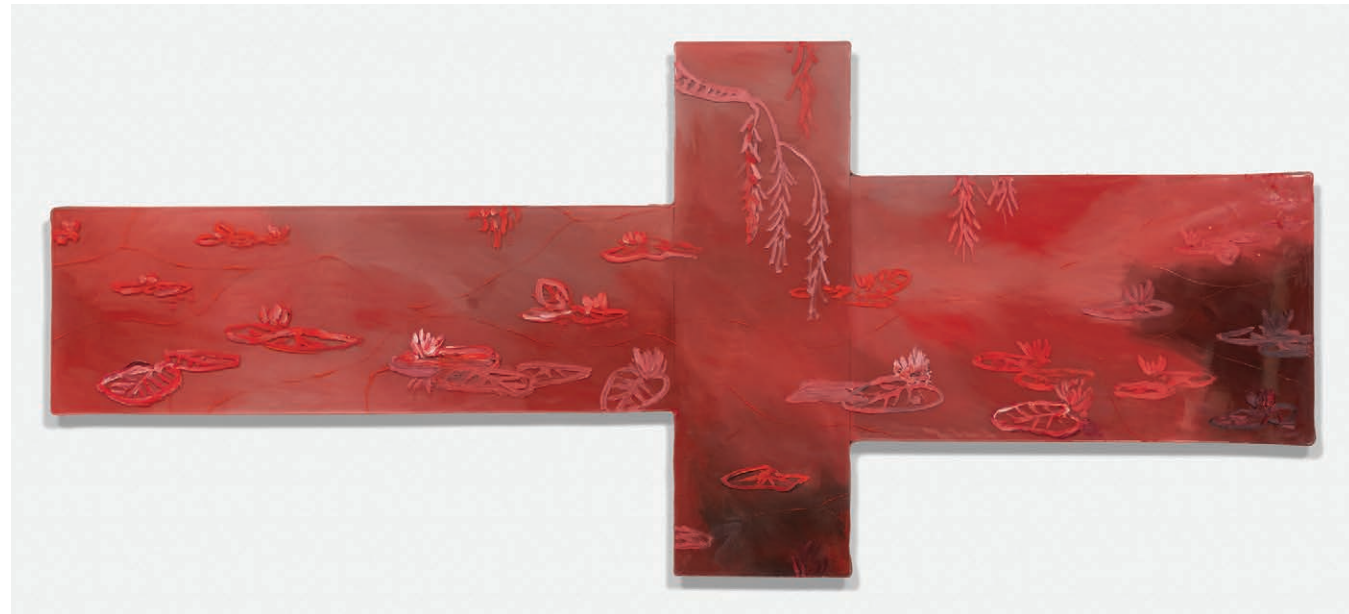
"Untitled - Lily Diptych"
76 x 51 Inches, Oil on Linen, 2022



"Purple Falling Flowers"
36 x 60 inches (Orientation Variable), Oil and Acrylic on Linen, 2022



"Falling Flower Lattice"
96 x 36 inches (Orientation Variable), Oil, Acrylic and Resin on Linen, 2022



“Red Lily”
91.5 x 41 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



“Spring Morning Lilies”
24 x 72 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



"Black and White Lily"
48 x 36 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



"Bright Lilies"
36 x 60 inches, Oil, Acrylic and Resin on Linen, 2021



"Poured Lilies"
96 x 72 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



"Waterlilies on Yellow Abstract"
77 x 55 inches, Oil, Acrylic and Resin on Linen, 2021



"Waterlilies on Pink Abstract"
77 x 55 inches, Oil, Acrylic and Resin on Linen, 2021



"White Lily"
36 x 48 inches, Oil, Acrylic and Resin on Linen, 2021



"Silver Pond"
72 x 108 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



“Maple Lilies”
24 x 36 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2022



“Blue Lilies”
22 x 28 inches, Oil and Resin on Canvas, 2022

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2022 *Latest Works*, The Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor NY
- 2022 *Waterlilies*, Sholeh Abghari Gallery, Marbella, Spain
- 2021 *Waterlilies*, The Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor NY
- 2020 *Darklight*, The Art Center At Duck Creek, Springs NY
- 2020 *RESINance*, The Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY
- 2017 *Darius Yektai*, KEYES ART PROJECTS, NY
- 2015 *Touch Thoughts*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton NY
- 2014 *Two Weeks in Umbria*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton, NY
- 2013 *On Country Ground*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton, NY
- 2009 *All I Know About Love at Thirty-Six, Part 2*, LTMH Gallery, NY
- All I Know About Love at Thirty-Six, Part 1*, Salomon Contemporary, NY
- 2006 Salomon Contemporary, East Hampton, NY
- 2003 *Darius Yektai: Survey 2000 - 2003*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY
- White Grass*, Sara Nightingale Gallery, Water Mill, NY

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITS

- 2022 *Summer Contemporary Exhibition*, Rarity Gallery, Mykonos, Greece
- 2020 *Drive-By-Art*, New York organized by Warren Neidich
- 2019 *Thick And Wet*, The Grenning Gallery, Sag Harbor, NY
- 2017 *Yektai*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY
- 2015 *Selfies and Portraits of the East End*, Guild Hall Museum, Easthampton, NY
- 2012 *Thanksgiving Collective 2012*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton, NY
- Watercolors*, Phillips de Pury & Co., New York, NY, October 1 - 19, 2012
- 2010 *Thanksgiving Collective 2010*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton, NY
- Tehran-New York*, LTMH Gallery, NY
- 2009 *Recent Acquisitions*, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY
- Before We Let Go...*, Tripoli Gallery, Southampton, NY
- In Stitches*, LTMH Gallery, NY, curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody
- Iran Inside Out*, The Chelsea Art Museum, NY, curated by Sam Bardaouil and Till Fellrath
- Selseleh Zelzeleh: movers and shakers in contemporary Iranian art*, LTMH Gallery, NY, curated by Leila Heller and Dr. Layla S. Diba
- '08-'97 Contact Grenning Gallery for more information

AWARDS Guild Hall Museum's annual members show:
2010 Best Representational Work - Benjamin Genocchio
2008 Best Sculpture - Linda Jablonsky
2002 Best in Show - Amei Wallach

EDUCATION

1998—1999 Studio Art, San Diego State University
1994—1996 BA Art History, American University in Paris
1991—1994 Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA



“Tern 5”

14.5 x 19 inches, Oil and Resin on Panel, 2013-2018



“Tern 4”

20 x 24 inches, Oil and Glitter on Canvas, 2013



“Pear Blossoms”

96 x 46 inches, Oil and Resin on Linen, 2021



“Untitled - Two Pots”
36 x 96 inches, Oil on Linen, 2022



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