

# TRIPOLI GALLERY

September 5, 2013

## Press Release

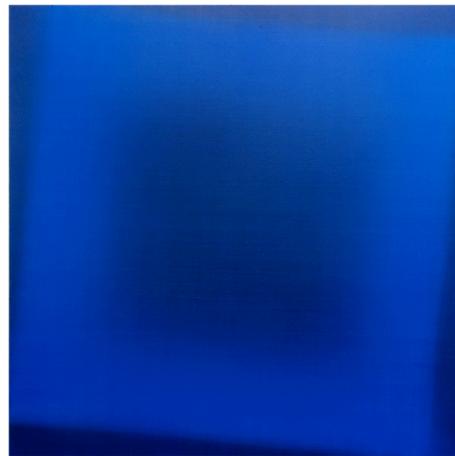
Tripoli Gallery  
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Southampton, NY 11968

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E. [info@tripoligallery.com](mailto:info@tripoligallery.com)  
Hours: Mon – Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

## **New Paintings | Eric Freeman**

September 14<sup>th</sup>–October 14th, 2013

Opening reception: Saturday, September 14, 6-8 pm



**Eric Freeman, *Untitled*, 2103**  
Oil on canvas, 96 x 96 inches

**Southampton, NY – Tripoli Gallery** is pleased to present a solo exhibition by Eric Freeman titled *New Paintings*. Privileged to have included Freeman’s luminous color field paintings in a number of group shows at the Tripoli Gallery, it is with great excitement to debut his most recent body of work in a setting where the full range of his expression can be experienced.

The paintings are ephemeral. While we understand that these works are fastened to the canvas, that the paint is permanent once dried, there is an ever-evolving quality to their surface—one seems to not only respond emotionally, but the paintings themselves react optically to the colors and light around them. Stripped of narrative and void of external references, what remains is pure and intense color.

In an age where artists are constantly exploring new mediums and trying to break away from what has already been done, Eric Freeman finds his mode of expression by pushing through the traditional medium of oil on canvas. He has continued to energize his own practice and the fundamentals of being a painter by experimenting with the combination of elements in the build up of oil paint. Fascinated with the qualities that make up a color, he has recently started exploring with iridescent pigments, raising the depth of each color at hand, and adding just the right amounts of various oils, before applying the new blend to the canvas in confident and graceful brushstrokes. Freeman applies layer upon layer, thinning them out intermittently—a process through which he creates different surfaces for light refraction to occur at various speeds, allowing the light to actually bounce between each layer resulting in a backlit quality.

Painter David Salle referenced an “illusive immateriality” to Freeman’s work, noting: “Where does the energy in these pictures come from? What does Freeman want us to feel? A sense of giving over to it; the thrill of the roller coaster gives way to something more internal. Accept the sheer physical/optical fact, these paintings seem to say, because that’s what painting is.”

Born in Brooklyn, New York in 1970, Eric Freeman earned his B.F.A. from Tufts University in 1993. He has shown at the Wetterling Gallery in Stockholm, Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Alain Noirhomme, Brussels, Mary Boone Gallery, Stephen Stux Gallery and Feature Gallery in New York, Springs Fireplace Project and Glen Horowitz Gallery in East Hampton, The Western Project in Culver City, and the Saatchi Gallery in London. His work is included in the collections of the Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation and the Kiasma Museum of Contemporary Art in Helsinki, Finland, Saatchi Gallery, London, and in the collection of the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill, New York. Freeman currently lives and works in Sagaponack, New York.