Helen Lundeberg: Enigma of Reality
September 11–December 2

Art Market

Inside Tribeca's Community-Driven Gallery Scene

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globe. That includes his groundbreaking solo museum exhibitions "Focus: Stanley Whitney" (2016) and "Dance the Orange" (2015) at the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and the Studio Museum in Harlem, respectively. This past spring, Whitney had a mesmerizing exhibition at the Palazzo Tiepolo Passi in Venice during the Biennale to commemorate the work that he has made in Italy across his career. For the past three decades, the artist has split his time between New York and Parma, Italy.

Portrait of Stanley Whitney in his studio by Pushpin Films. © Stanley Whitney. Courtesy of Gagosian.

Recently, Whitney's secondary market has grown exponentially. In November 2021, Whitney's auction record was set when the canvas *Forward to Black* (1996), measuring over seven feet in length, sold for more than $2.3 million, far exceeding its estimate of $150,000–$200,000 at Sotheby's. That record was nearly matched in March of this year, when *Nightwatch* (2012) sold for £1.7 million ($2.3 million) at Sotheby's "The Now" evening auction. In fact, the artist's top 10 results at auction all occured over the past year, nine of which surpassed the million dollar mark.

As new audiences are exposed to Whitney's fresh approach to abstraction, they are confronted with the foundational use of culture—from jazz to the Roman archways—across his practice. His charitable work, as seen in this latest auction and his 2020 online exhibition "No to Prisons," in which proceeds also went toward the Art for Justice Fund, similarly function like a call and response. As Whitney himself said, abstraction has a political impact because it "[puts] everything into question." ∎

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