

aspenartmuseum



Mark Grotjahn. *Untitled (Tequila Sunrise)* 2003. Oil on linen. 50 x 40 inches (127 x 101.6 cm). Collection of Milton and Sheila Fine.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 15, 2012

**THE ASPEN ART MUSEUM PRESENTS A SURVEY OF MARK GROTJAHN'S
PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS FROM 1990 TO TODAY**

***Five Grotjahn Sculptures On View Outside in the Snow, with Images of the Works Featured
on Limited-Edition Lift Tickets for the 2011-2012 Ski Season***

On View Friday, February 17, Through Sunday, April 22, 2012

ASPEN, COLORADO—[The Aspen Art Museum](#) presents a comprehensive survey of paintings and drawings by artist [Mark Grotjahn](#), dating from the 1990s to the present. The exhibition is on view from Friday, February 17, through Sunday, April 22, 2012.

Mark Grotjahn makes conceptually grounded paintings and drawings that collide abstract and figurative elements to unsettle the conventions of each medium. By continuously combining these seemingly incompatible poles, as well as those of mimesis and expressionism, rational logic and intuitive process, Grotjahn stakes a claim for the continued vitality of abstraction and of painting itself.

In his paintings and drawings, the artist combines varying schemes of one-point perspective—used since the Renaissance to create the illusion of depth on a flat surface—to create mesmerizing abstractions. By

upending the horizon line in these works he creates vertical “butterflies,” allowing them to float seemingly free of perspectival grounding and to oscillate between geometric abstraction and spatial illusion. While the works appear, at first glance, to be rigidly formal and graphic, their surfaces are often layered over expressionistic or gestural underpaintings to create tonal shifts of color and textured surfaces that reveal the process of the works’ own making.

In a recent body of work, Grotjahn has used sheets of primed cardboard mounted on linen to build up complexly layered surfaces with both brush and palette knife. Combinations of the basic elements of painting, like line, color, and texture, are gradually built up and worked into paintings that the artist has linked to representations of faces.

LIMITED EDITION GROTJAHN LIFT TICKETS:

For the 2011–2012 ski season in Aspen, Grotjahn has designed five limited-edition lift tickets that feature images of his exuberant mask sculptures. The tickets go on sale February 17, 2012. Four of the bronze sculptures are on public display in varying locations of each of the Aspen Skiing Company’s four mountains—Aspen Mountain, Aspen Highlands, Buttermilk, and Snowmass—allowing skiers to make the connection between the images on their lift tickets and the actual artworks. The fifth sculpture will be on view outside the Aspen Art Museum in conjunction with the exhibition of Grotjahn’s paintings and drawings.

EXHIBITION CATALOGUE:

The exhibition is accompanied by a lavish, fully illustrated catalogue that features essays by *The Nation* art critic Barry Schwabsky and Aspen Art Museum CEO and Director, Chief Curator Heidi Zuckerman Jacobson.

OPENING EVENTS:

A free public reception with the artist will be held at the Museum at 5 p.m. on Thursday, February 16, 2012.

Mark Grotjahn was born in 1968 in Pasadena, California, and lives and works in Los Angeles. He has had one-person exhibitions at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Kunstmuseum Thun, Switzerland; and the Portland Art Museum, Oregon. His work has been included in major group exhibitions at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands; and The Museum of Modern Art, New York, among other international venues. Grotjahn was included in the 54th Carnegie International in 2004 and the Whitney Biennial in 2006. His work is included in numerous public collections, including the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Walker Art Center; Minneapolis, Minnesota; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; and Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.

This exhibition is funded in part by the AAM National Council. General exhibition support is provided by The Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts. Exhibition lectures are presented as part of the Questrom Lecture Series.

The Aspen Art Museum is a noncollecting institution presenting the newest, most important evolutions in international contemporary art. Our innovative and timely exhibitions, education and public programs, immersive activities, and community happenings actively engage audiences in thought-provoking experiences of art, culture, and society.

AAM MUSEUM HOURS:

Tuesday - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; Thursdays 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m., Sunday, noon to 6:00 p.m., Closed Mondays and major holidays. **AAM ADMISSION IS FREE** courtesy of John and Amy Phelan
Visit the AAM online: www.aspenartmuseum.org

MEDIA CONTACT:

Meg Blackburn
FITZ & CO
meg@fitzandco.com
212-627-1455 x225

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