



WATSON & SPIERMAN FINE ART

NEWS

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Press kits and high-resolution images of the artist's paintings available on request.

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Abstract Painter Mark G. Picascio's "Fluid Synergy" at Nexus Projects Gallery

Exhibition: April 27 to May 16, 2005

New York Gallery Building, 24 West 57th Street, Suite 301

Opening Reception: Wednesday, April 27, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

New York, N.Y. – The studied geometry of architectural lines converges with soft, organic contours of nature, defined and fused by vibrant hues of earth, water and sky, in the abstract paintings of Mark G. Picascio. *Fluid Synergy*, the artist's fourth exhibition in Manhattan since 2003, will be presented by the Nexus Projects Gallery and Watson & Spierman Fine Art from April 27 through May 16 at the New York Gallery Building at 24 W. 57th Street, Suite 301.

The new exhibition spans two distinct but harmonious series of Picascio's acrylic paintings on canvas. The hard edges and precise angles of modern architecture dominate in the artist's signature work in "Elevation Lines"— a term borrowed from the vernacular of architecture that communicates the beginning of something new. Naturally allusive shapes intersect and temper those lines, recalling human elemental roots. In Picascio's more recent work, the subtle curves, diffuse beams of light and free-form references to nature seen in the "Elevation Lines" series have evolved into dramatic circles and spirals infused with organic energies that radiate within, up and outward. Manmade elements now inform and punctuate, rather than define.

In all of Picascio's paintings, a luminous palette reflects the shimmering effects and subtleties of natural light and the colors of his native southern California. He abstracts from a moment captured in time, expelling emotions onto canvas with paint to see beyond the surface through other dimensions.

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This deeply personal vision is balanced and articulated with an elegant sense of design derived from the artist's professional experience in architectural design and commercial photography. He draws on images and associations cultivated through travels around the world, including residence in Paris. Picascio's body of work also includes a series called "Kenya Nights" reflecting the artist's vision of Africa inspired by his mother's experiences during an extended sojourn on the continent.

"A Piering Lines," an artist's favorite among Picascio's "Elevation Lines" paintings showing at the Nexus Projects Gallery, casts an iridescent array of aquas and turquoise. Vertical bands of earth tones suggest the piers that interrupt and frame ocean views from the Malibu shoreline, while splashes of soft coral evoke the fading sun. Similarly inspired and more powerful in movement, "Free Flow"—a painting from Picascio's current series—embodies the artist's experience observing the setting sun over the Pacific following another perfect day in California. Deep swirls of reds and oranges are broken by and ultimately consume the horizon line, as aqua sprays anchor the splashy passage to the timelessness of the ocean.

Mark G. Picascio was born in Los Angeles in 1961. He gratefully acknowledges the work of Frank Stella as a formative influence, along with other seminal modern artists, including Mark Rothko, Paul Klee, Richard Caldicott, Wassily Kandinsky and Pierre Soulages. Paintings by the artist are in private collections in California, Nevada and Tucson, Arizona, as well as in New York.

Alexander Oppenheimer, Director of Nexus Projects, is curating Picascio's ***Fluid Synergies*** exhibition. Nexus Projects Gallery showcases emerging artists across all media, specializing in contemporary American and international art and fashion. Gallery hours are from 11 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday.

For information about the exhibition and specific paintings in the collection, or to schedule gallery appointments, readers may contact: Watson & Spierman Fine Art; 636 Broadway, Suite 708, New York, NY 10012; phone 212-253-9991; email: email@watsonspierman.com; website: www.watsonspierman.com/fineart

Readers may request an invitation to the April 27 opening reception by visiting the artist's website at: www.MGPicascio.com