

## Jay Kelly

### *Twenty Years of Drawing & Sculpture*

January 18- March 4, 2018

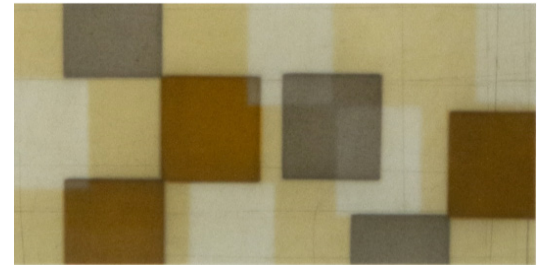


*Untitled #474-#478, 2017.*

Jim Kempner Fine Art is pleased to announce Jay Kelly's new exhibition *Twenty Years of Drawing & Sculpture*. The exhibition will feature a selection of the artist's early work from 1997 up to his recent sculptures and drawings from 2017. The exhibition will be on view from January 18<sup>th</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018. An opening reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, from 6-8 pm.

The exhibition will feature Kelly's last ever photorealist painting, *Oxygen Tanks*, from 1998. Prior to his abstract work, he was producing highly detailed, photorealist paintings and graphite drawings of industrial landscapes. Ivan Karp, legendary SoHo art dealer, was a huge supporter of Kelly's photorealist work, selling every painting Kelly brought in. During this time, after spending hours during the day working on his hyperreal paintings, Kelly would explore abstraction at night. He found himself emotionally enmeshed in the world of abstraction and began to work exclusively in that aesthetic.

His earliest abstract drawings from 1997 have a photographic appearance, however they are made entirely by hand with graphite on paper. In the later years, Kelly drew exclusively on vellum with graphite, pastels, oil and colored pencils. His very first abstract sculptures (*The Weissman Group #1-7*) from 2004 will also be included in this survey. These early works, made from steel wire, Japanese paper, ink and thread, are suspended by wires, a separation from his later free standing sculptures.



*Untitled #683, 2001.*

Jay Kelly is a self-taught artist from Pasadena, California. His work is in the collections of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY; The British Museum, London, England; The Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, NY; the San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego, CA; The Yale University Art Museum, New Haven, CT; and many other private and public collections.

For more information, please contact gallery director Dru Arstark, [dru@jimkempner.com](mailto:dru@jimkempner.com), or associate director Sarah Browne, [sarah@jimkempner.com](mailto:sarah@jimkempner.com).