

Leslie Parke

Evening Fog

Photograph, Archival inkjet print

34 x 25.5 inches

Opening bid: \$1,700

Artist's Statement:

In the '60s, as a child, I attended classes at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, where "Cleopatra Flesh", a stain painting by Jules Olitski was on view. I found it mesmerizing and I returned to look at it week after week. In 1967 I visited The Tate Museum in London with the cousin of Ken Noland's wife. She pointed out a target painting of his and told me about her family's visits to Shaftsbury where her father frequently played poker with Noland and Olitski. It was these two experiences that led me to Bennington for my own education.

While there, Olitski was no longer at the college, but Noland, Tony Caro, Helen Frankenthaler, Larry Poons, and Clement Greenberg were frequent visitors.

For some people, the '60s were about drugs, sex, and rock and roll. For me, it was about stain painting, newly developed acrylic paints, spray-painting, large-scale canvases, shaped canvases, welded-steel, dots, targets and stripes.

Now I look at the world through the filter of mid-century modernist painting and sculpture. My current photographs of my brother's dying television set, while addressing issues that interest me today about representation and abstraction, illusion and reality, also quite directly harken back to the paintings of the 1960s.

Biography:

Leslie Parke, an artist from upstate New York, is a recipient of the Esther and Adolph Gottlieb Grant for Individual Support, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest grant as artist-in-residence at the Claude Monet Foundation in Giverny, France, and the George Sugarman Foundation Grant, among others. Her exhibits include the Williams College Museum of Art, Williamstown, Massachusetts; SUNY Oneonta, Oneonta, New York; The Bennington Museum, Bennington, Vermont; the Museum of the Southwest, Midland, Texas; the Fernbank Museum, Atlanta, Georgia; the Milwaukee Art Museum, Wisconsin; and the Museo de Arte Moderno, Buenos Aires, Argentina. She currently exhibits in Boston, MA, Dorset, VT, Washington, DC, Milwaukee, WI and Houston, TX. Parke has a BA and MA from Bennington College. Her work is in numerous corporate and private collections.