

PETER KEPHART

“RAPTUROUS N-COUNTERS”

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Joan Miro once mused, “For me, a picture should be like sparks. It must dazzle like the beauty of a woman or a poem. It must have radiance; it must be like those stones which Pyrenean shepherds use to light their pipes.” Expounding on this sentiment, Contemporary artist Peter Kephart crafts resplendent artwork utilizing the medium and tool of a searing bonfire. Mr. Kephart’s abstract expressionistic landscapes convey intense passion by virtue of his fluid and organic shapes, lucid color palette and the unmistakable vestiges of the sizzling blaze.

After starting a bonfire in the woods, Mr. Kephart arranges gunpowder upon his chosen paintings surface of cotton rag paper, which is adhered to a board for the burning process. With water or watercolor, Mr. Kephart paints a composition which is left to thoroughly be absorbed into the paper to prevent the fire from scorching the design intended to be unaffected by the inferno. Then, Mr. Kephart kindles the gunpowder and places the board over the fire – allowing the fire to act as a conduit for his artistic intent. Subsequently, Mr. Kephart finishes his masterpiece with smoldering charcoal and soft pastels.

The result of his dramatic artistic process is an oeuvre of dynamic abstract art which captivates the mind and spirit of the viewer. At times, Mr. Kephart creates landscape scenes, such as mysterious woodland vistas created with sweeping brushstrokes in bistre brown portraying barren trees. Other artworks are more abstract in nature and depict a metaphysical idea rather than a physical entity, such as the concept of the color red, illustrated with a wash of fiery crimson upon a sultry gray background, juxtaposed by thick ashy black lines and a refreshing pool of cool blue color. His color palette conveys the spectrum of the fire used to create the artwork, such as effulgent amber, burnt ebony and the creamy white which signifies areas unaffected by the flames. Mr. Kephart’s artwork sets alight the passion within us all, reminding us of the inner fire which is only waiting to be ignited.

Peter Kephart has exhibited his artwork throughout the United States, including shows in Washington D.C., Philadelphia as well as New York City. Amsterdam Whitney Gallery is honored to showcase his ravishing art.