

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

ERIC WOLF

PAINTINGS

March 24 through April 21

Jessica Fredericks Gallery is pleased to announce the inauguration of its new gallery with an exhibition of paintings by **ERIC WOLF**. Over the past few years, the artist has been seen in group shows at Barbara Gladstone Gallery, The Drawing Center, and Paul Morris Gallery. This will be his first solo show in New York. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with an essay by Terry R. Myers.

Ever since the Restoration, the painted landscape has transcended the utilitarian function of depicting a specific location. A few hundred years later came the Cezanne\ Van Gogh dichotomy with Cezanne bringing the genre into the Modern era of picture theory while Van Gogh was making some of Landscape's most vivid nature-as-psyche paintings. More recently the Ab Ex group and Helen Frankenthaler led way to Brice Marden's own post-minimal version of this dichotomy as he worked his way from the Grove Group series (landscape as flat bands of color) to the Cold Mountain series (fluid, meditative, and irrevocably linked to the physical, and therefore autobiographical, movement of the artist). Somehow, all this seems important in considering the work of **ERIC WOLF**.

ERIC WOLF's paintings are striking. He paints pictures of trees, water, rocks, and clouds by applying flat calligraphic black marks of varying shapes and rhythmic cadences to stark white canvas' in a manner that seems to alternate between fluid and abrupt. Though he paints in the landscape (often by a pond in upstate New York), Wolf's notations from nature are neither about the landscape, nor his emotional response to it, nor a pictorial reduction of it. In the essay for the catalogue, Terry R. Myers states that by putting representation to the "unrepresentable"--Nature-- Wolf's work cuts to the core of what is "Postmodern". And it is here Wolf seems to fuse the Cezanne/Van Gogh dichotomy. By stripping his canvas to the bare brushstroke (Myers refers to early Lichtenstein and Richter), his paintings acknowledge limitations. They convey an attempt to record, to understand, and to define what surrounds us, yet they remain in awe of all that is not artificial. They are arresting, sensual works that speak of desire and a sincere belief in the medium of painting.

Jessica Fredericks Gallery is located at 504 West 22nd Street, between 10th and 11th Avenues. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs please contact the gallery by telephone at (212) 633-6555 or fax at (212) 367-9502.

Jessica Fredericks Gallery

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