

PLACE AND SPACE

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By Emilia Dubicki

This season, I found myself drawn especially to exhibitions that dealt with place and space. Nature and man-made structures, along with the moods, light, and colors they evoke.....

In the exhibit *Silent Water*, Meyer's paintings filled the spacious [Danese Corey Gallery](#) in Chelsea with dream-like depictions of the natural world, like windows onto blurred wetlands, pools, and marine vegetation, where the real meets abstraction. The repetition of watery blue, purple, and green oils on linen bleeding and spilling like watercolors and creating vertical ribbons of color gave this viewer a feeling of being just under the water's surface; at other times of hovering over the water or standing before curtains of water and sea grasses.

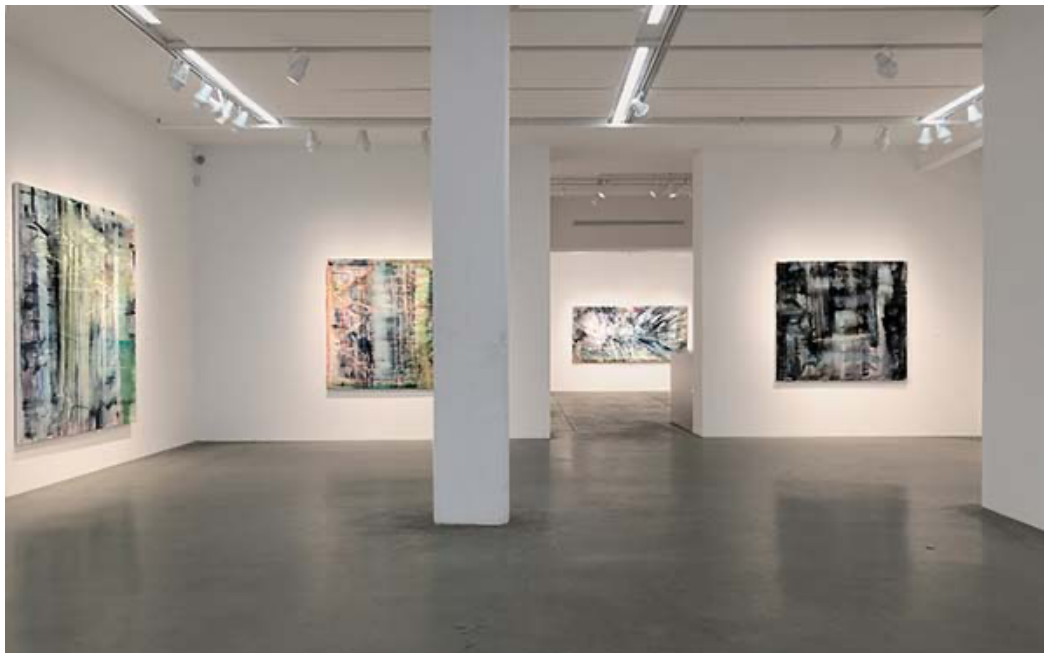


Matthias Meyer, *Clearwater*, 2019. Oil on linen, 43 1/4" x 39 1/4"
Photographed by Giorgio Morra, Courtesy Danese/Corey



Matthias Meyer, *Kyoto 2*, 2019. Oil on linen, 82 1/2" x 78 3/4"
Photographed by Giorgio Morra, Courtesy Danese/Corey

Meyer, who was born and lives in Germany, studied with Gerhard Richter, and I could see a Richter influence in how Meyer integrates and spreads his colors across the canvas. Richter used a squeegee to blend bands of color and Meyer achieves a similar visual effect by allowing paint to run and bleed, to shimmer with light and illusions of reflections in his translucent layers where the physical world meets states of mind and being.



Matthias Meyer
Courtesy Danese/Corey

The painting "Insomnia," with its horizontal landscape format, is a moody representation of what could be an icy blue-green pond beneath watery drops and slashes of inky black-and-white scratches on ice. Does the title reference the artist working sleeplessly through the night or is it a visualization of what insomnia might look like if it had a physical form? Whatever Meyer's reason for his title, the mystery is for the viewer to contemplate.



Matthias Meyer, *Insomnia*, 2014. Oil on linen, 59" x 118"
Photographed by Giorgio Morra, Courtesy Danese/Corey