

# LENNON, WEINBERG, INC.

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## Stephen Westfall

### Seraphim: Paintings and works on paper

April 26-June 11, 2011  
Tuesday-Saturday 10-6

Opening reception Friday, April 29, 6-8 pm



Installation view, American Academy in Rome, 2010



*Blood Diamond*, 2010  
23-1/2 x 23-1/2", oil and alkyd on canvas



*Seraphim*, 2010  
59 x 59", oil and alkyd on canvas

Stephen Westfall returned from a fellowship at the American Academy in Rome last summer. During his year there, he completed a series of paintings that while predicated on structures already emerging in his recent work address the extended history of geometric imagery that he set out to explore in his Rome project, "New Paintings for an Old City." They were exhibited last year at the Academy's galleries along with several wall paintings that share elements with the paintings but engaged with the architecture on a monumental scale.

Many of these paintings are inspired by 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> century Cosmatesque floor patterns in churches around Italy and especially in Rome. The style is named for a Roman family, the Cosmati, who were for four generations architects, sculptors and workers in decorative geometric mosaics. Westfall is looking for an animist geometry, something that is both architectural and figural, and Cosmatesque imagery is imbued with that quality of address while resonating in startling fashion with the European and Minimalist geometric painting of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Our exhibition incorporates a selection of the Rome paintings with those made since his return. Long recognized for an intuitively calibrated color palette that tended early on to cool-warm juxtapositions, then to emotive field colors against unstable grids, Westfall's recent works have presented a more complex range of hues. Colors track from painting to painting but are not quite the same. The grey, blue, green, yellow, violet, black, red, orange, and pink have different values of saturation, brightness and purity, and are deployed alongside each other in ways that disrupt the planar space of these paintings.

Westfall is on the faculty at the Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University and the Milton Avery Graduate School of the Arts, Bard University. In addition to the fellowship at the American Academy in Rome, Westfall has received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Nancy Graves Foundation Grant and an Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. This is Westfall's sixth exhibition at Lennon, Weinberg.

**For additional information, contact Kathleen Mallaney at 212 941 0012, [kathleen@lennonweinberg.com](mailto:kathleen@lennonweinberg.com)**