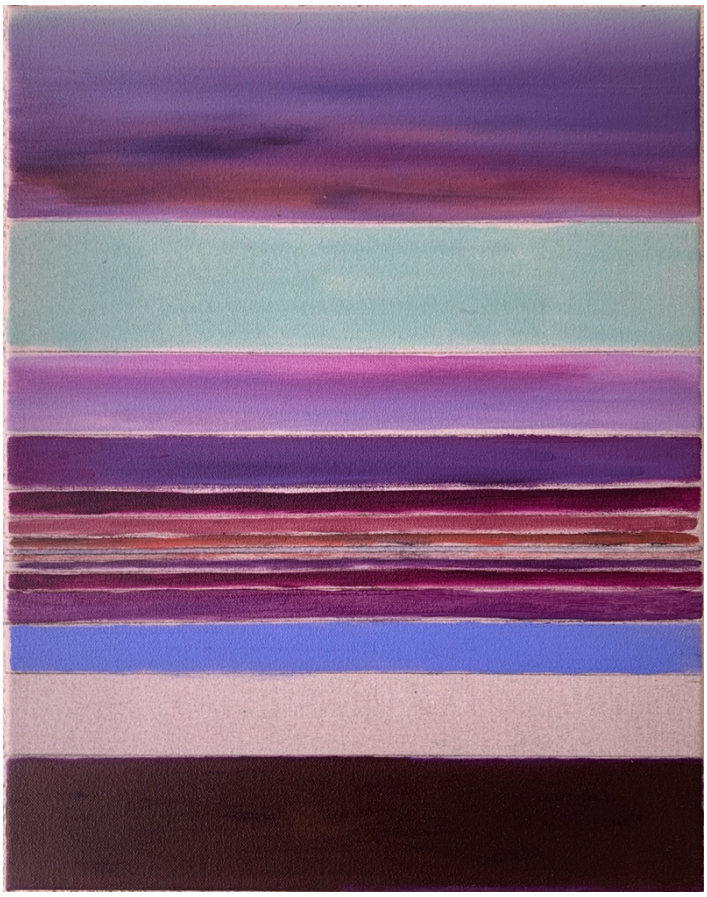
RONCHINI

Richard Höglund
Vine Pictures
24 June – 13 August 2021



Richard Höglund, Vine ***Picture XLVIII****, 2021, silverpoint, leadpoint, oil on bone pulver and marble dust in acrylic emulsions on linen, 38 x 30 cm / 15 x 11 3/4 in. © The Artist* and Ronchini, London

Ronchini is proud to present the third solo exhibition with American artist Richard Höglund, whose work explores the questions of consciousness, language, and mark-making. This exhibition sees the first appearance of his new *Vine Pictures* in the UK, introducing the viewer to deep relations between thought, language and interpretation that the artist's immersive abstract compositions evoke.

Inspired by a vine, the works in the exhibition explore the sensual content of the concept and ideology behind it. Continuing themes explored in Höglund's earlier series, these works stem from a profound philosophical approach to drawing. The artist allows the thought and sensation that the vine evokes in him unfold; he follows the immaterial idea though his drawing and writing, trying to make space for it to mature unconstrained by the limits of figuration and interpretation.

> "Leaf of my word". I began drawing the vine; writing it, as light shifted above and below.

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Vine Pictures demonstrate the coming together of two strata of time – the past seen in the figurative representations of the vine in ancient Greek culture, and Höglund's present fascination with the strength of the physical vine growing behind the house where he was staying in Naxos. The paintings Höglund developed express the universality of the idea of continual unfolding of life and growth of spirit that the vine represents. There is simplicity in the unfurling of meaning with the passing of time. Just like life, meaning, and thought, the vine has a beginning, a root in the Earth; it exists in a continuous process of adaptation and movement. The vine has a directionality about it, it is a vector reaching out and up towards the sky; though its end is often concealed, covered by layers of previous growth – just like the end of a thought that cannot be seen in its progression, hidden behind other thoughts that arise with time.

> I sat with the vine on the edge of a cliff, and, from our perch, sky and sea moved together as the hours passed. "Wave whose sea I gradually become".

Richard Höglund, detail of an early sketch for Vine Pictures. © The Artist and Ronchini, London

"Leaf of my word" is a phrase from Rainer Maria Rilke's poem that greatly inspired Richard Höglund. It transmits the idea of continuous growth and unfurling of the self in a way the vine grows and reaches. The vine can be seen as a stream of consciousness – flowing and expanding, giving life to the leaves of meaning in its pursuit of truth. Thus, the artist's conscious marks on the paintings flourish, reveal, obscure, and embody growth.

About the artist

Richard Höglund was born in New York, USA in 1982, and lives and works in Paris, France. He was educated at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts and MIT in Boston, USA and holds a MFA from the Haute École des Arts du Rhin, in Strasbourg, France (2008).
Höglund was awarded the Prix Jeune Création, Paris, France (2006) and has participated in several residency programs including Villa Ruffieux, Sierre, Switzerland (2013), Cannonball, Miami, USA (2012) and Villa Bernasconi, Geneva, Switzerland (2010).

Selected solo exhibitions include:
Twelve Joyful House, Ronchini, London UK (2019), Primary Colours, Ronchini, London, UK (2016); Desert Octave, Custot Gallery, Dubai, United Arab Emirates (2016); Skaftfell, Seyðisfjörður, Iceland (2015); Tête, Berlin, Germany (2012); Dimensions Variable, Miami, USA (2012); Mamco, Geneva, Switzerland (2010); Gallery Diet, Miami, USA (2009); Le Salon du Dessin Contemporain, Paris, France (2008); La Chaufferie, Strasbourg, France (2006).

Selected group exhibitions include:

TWO x TWO Auction, The Rachofsky House, Dallas, USA (2017); Black, White..., Custot Gallery, Dubai, UAE (2017); Hashtag Abstract, Ronchini, London, UK (2015); Le Chasseur Noir, Maison de Courten, Sierre, Switzerland (2013); Taller de Tacita Dean, Villa Iris, Santander, Switzerland (2013); Eye On the Storm, Housatonic Museum, Bridgeport, USA (2013); Villa Iris, Santander, Spain (2013); Bob Rauschenburg Gallery, Fort Myers, USA (2013); New World School of the Arts, Miami, USA (2011); Bakehouse Art Complex, Miami, USA (2010); Musée de l'Oeuvre Notre Dame, Strasbourg, France (2007); National Art Gallery, Sofia, Bulgaria (2007); La Bellevilloise, Paris, France (2006); and Mumok, Vienna, Austria (2006).

Exhibition: Richard Höglund: Vine Pictures
Dates: 24 June – 13 August 2021
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