

JOURDAN ARPELLE

ABOUT THE PAINTINGS

THE GEIST SERIES 1999-2001

TITLE: Geist: Ghost, Mind, Spirit / Premonitions

SIZE:

Series size: 17 paintings dated 1999

17 hand blown hourglasses, framed, filled with WTC dust

Dimensions: Paintings measuring 12 in. or 30.5 cm. square

Framed paintings: 12.875 in. or 32.7 cm. square

Framed hour glasses: 12.875 in. H x 5.375 in. x 1.25 in. D

32.8 cm. H x 13.65 cm. W x 3.17 cm. D

Paired together: 12.875 in. H x 18.125 in. W x 1.25 in. D

32.7 cm. H x 46 cm. W x 3.17 cm. D

The pair is framed in two welded metal frames touching.

DESCRIPTION

The Geist Paintings were painted in 1999. the artist conceived of the image and the idea from a dream. The intent of the artist in making these paintings, was to depict, in abstract terms, the physics of dematerialization of matter into spirit. These were painted in smooth shades of gray, burnished to have the texture of silk. Overlaying each of these paintings is a fine orthogonal line painted in opalescent white paint. Each painting is composed of open squares, sometimes overlapping one another and numbering between two and five ethereal objects.

PROVENANCE/CONTENT

The Geist Series was exhibited at the Robert Pardo Gallery in the Chelsea art gallery district of New York City from November, 2001 to February, 2002. This exhibition, entitled "Premonitions" included sculptures and paintings created by the artist between 1996 and 2001. The historical significance of these paintings was revealed by the collapse of the World Trade Center towers on September 11th, 2001. The paintings, which are the color of the dust from the collapse, the overlapping plans of the buildings which were destroyed, plus the symbolic cross of lines which intersected each composition, revealed the foretelling of this tragedy. The content of this work, the dematerialization from matter into spirit transpired within eight and ten seconds as the South Tower, then the North Tower disintegrated into dust. The hour glasses, the model shape of which was sculpted by the artist, were fabricated by Deborah Czeresko at Urban Glass. Each hour glass holds remains of the tragedy, dust which fell upon the roof of the building viewed from the windows of the artist's studio. These vessels serve as a reverent and personal memorial to all that was destroyed that day. In September, 2001, the artist lived and worked 700 feet – 200 meters from the site: "Ground Zero". The hour glasses were fabricated in October, 2001.