

PAUL PAGK

*I feel as though what I have in front of me is mental architecture, seeking its place in space.*

– Olivier Kaepelin

Paul Pagk is an abstract painter whose painterly language is one of dualities and discovery. His work invites the viewer to slow down the act of perception, that is to ‘look’, ‘feel’, and perhaps ‘see’. While his compositional style communicates a minimalist approach to form, Pagk plays with the flatness of the picture plane through his use of free hand linework and gestural abstraction, subtle though it may be in places. And yet, it is neither on spatial illusion, nor on process that Pagk insists in his practice. The object that is the painting itself is the form of expression, as are the finely-tuned oppositional forces and personal geometries he creates to relay flattened, deconstructed subjects, each one held in suspension amidst lush fields of singular color.

The pictorial rhythms inherent in Pagk’s paintings and drawings are unmistakable. The artist’s brushstrokes, both broad and finite, have a deliberateness that manifests a fluid mind and breathing hand at work. Like architectural blueprints that have shed their skin and rearranged themselves from within, Pagk’s offbeat graphic compositions are structurally sound, but not in any rigid or mechanical sense. Whatever illusions and sensations his canvases might produce, Pagk’s stated intent is for viewers to “inhabit” his paintings and the spatial constructs therein.

“The care and attention Pagk lavishes on his paintings, his satiny, almost licked surfaces, show an artisanal sense of self-effacing craft; not to the extent of effacing the premise of a maker – Pagk’s surfaces are not the featureless, machine made skins of Minimalism – but only so far as to avoid loading every gesture with the burden of self-expression.

...

There is a stillness and grace to Pagk’s work that seems to owe more to a memory of Greek civilization than to any modern painter.

...

What strikes one most in Pagk’s paintings is the abundance of patience, both the patience of their making and the patience of how they present themselves to us. Like Brice Marden’s monochromes, but in a way all their own, Pagk’s paintings need a good deal of time to achieve their full effect. This willingness to wait, this lack of anxiety about the audience’s attention span, is remarkable in so young a painter. (Possibly it is Pagk’s mixed cultural background, his position as a ‘French’ painter actually English and Czech–transplanted from Paris to New York that helps him take such a long view.)

...

While it is true that [his works] are neither ‘last’ nor ‘first’ paintings, it is equally true that they have their own secrets and that these are well-guarded. Like inscriptions in an ancient language, they seem prepared to wait millennia if necessary before the world takes cognizance of their importance, their hidden wisdom, their arcane knowledge, their complex system of inner harmonies. One knows that, regardless, Paul Pagk will carry on constructing his human-scaled pantheons stroke by stroke, that no matter what, his paintings will continue to emit their quiet glow, like epistemological batteries.”

– Meyer Raphael Rubinstein

*Text excerpt from Meyer Raphael Rubinstein, “Paul Pagk: The Survival of Pagan Geometry,” in Paul Pagk, Paintings and Drawings (New York: Thread Waxing Space, 1991).*

*Paul Pagk (b. 1962, Crawley, UK) lives and works in New York City. Institutional surveys of his work were recently on view at the Centre d’Arts Plastiques, Royan (2022) and the Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis (2021), both in France. He had solo exhibitions at Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris (1987), Thread Waxing Space, New York (1991 & 1993), CRG Gallery, New York (1994 & 1995), C.R.A.C. Montbéliard, France (1999), Markus Winter, Berlin (2007), Baukunst Galerie, Cologne (2008), Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris (2014 & 2019), among others. His work was included in Singing in Unison: Artists Need to Create On the Same Scale That Society Has the Capacity to Destroy, curated by Phong H. Bui at Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York (2022). Pagk’s work is held in the permanent collections of the Fonds National d’Art Contemporain (FNAC), Paris; Les Abattoirs, Toulouse, Fonds Régional d’Art Contemporain (FRAC), Picardie, France, Springfield Museum of Art, OH, Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, NH, among others.*

*His first solo exhibition at Miguel Abreu Gallery opens January 12, 2023.*

## MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

### PAUL PAGK

Born in Crawley, UK, 1962  
Lives and works in New York

### EDUCATION

École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts, Paris, France (1978-1982)

### SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

#### 2022

*Paul Pagk*, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

#### 2022

*Paul Pagk: Peintures et Dessins 2008-2021*, Centre d'Arts Plastiques (C.A.P.) de Royan, France  
Queen of Spades, Hionas Gallery, New York, NY  
*Pas de Deux: Paul Pagk*, Thomas Park Gallery, Seoul, South Korea

#### 2021

*Paul Pagk: Rythmes & Structures*, Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis, France

#### 2019

*Paul Pagk: Interaction*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

#### 2016

*Paul Pagk*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

#### 2014

*Paul Pagk: Oeuvres récentes*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

#### 2013

*18 Drawings and 1 Painting*, Studio 10, Brooklyn, New York

#### 2011

*Mesquite drawings*, Some Walls, Oakland, CA

#### 2010

*Recent paintings: My red maybe your orange, even*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

#### 2008

*Home is where the heart is*, Baukunst Galerie, Köln, Germany

**2007**

*To K from P with love*, Markus Winter, Berlin, Germany

*Recent Paintings*, Gallery Eric Dupont, Paris, France

*Aftermath & lexicon*, Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY

**2005**

Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

**2003**

*Battle Pagk* (two person show) curated by Adrian Dannatt, Thomas Erben Gallery, New York

**2002**

Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

**2000**

*Paul Pagk*, Galeries des études, ENAD Limoges-Aubusson, France

Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

**1999**

*Paul Pagk*, MACC, Fresnes, France

*Paul Pagk*, Le 19, C.R.A.C. Montbéliard, France

**1998**

Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

CRG Gallery, New York, NY

**1995**

CRG Gallery, New York, NY

**1994**

Galerie Eric Dupont, Toulouse, France

**1993**

*Paul Pagk*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, NY

**1992**

Galerie Eric Dupont, Toulouse, France

**1991**

*Paul Pagk*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, NY

**1987**

*Paul Pagk*, Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, France

## SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

### 2022

*Singing in Unison: Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale That Society Has the Capacity to Destroy, Part 6*, curated by Phong H. Bui and Cal McKeever, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York

*A Fleur de Peau III: Le dessin à l'épreuve du temps*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

*Doomed and Famous: Selections from the Adrian Dannatt Collection*, Galerie Pixi, Paris, France

*New York Connection, Summer group show*, Galerie Floss & Schultz, Cologne, Germany

### 2021

*Doomed and Famous: Selections from the Adrian Dannatt Collection*, Miguel Abreu Gallery in collaboration with Sequence Press, New York, NY

### 2020

*Abstract Art from the Miettinen Collection*, Miettinen Collection, Berlin, Germany

*MULTILAYER: 50 abstract artists*, curated by Ivo Ringe and Juliane Rogge, Museum Wilhelm Morgner, Soest, Germany

### 2019

*Constructed: Paul Pagk/Cary Smith/Beverly Fishman/Marilyn Lerner/Joanna Poussette-Dart*, curated by Barry Rosenberg, Contemporary Art Galleries, University of Connecticut, CT

*La Couleur*, curated by Jean-Pascal Léger, C.A.P. Royan, France

*Quasar: La collection*, curated by Emmanuel Lesgourgues, Musée des Beaux-Arts de Pau, France

*Paper Works*, Artelli Gallery, Antwerp, Belgium

### 2018

*Introspection: Paul Pagk/Warner Berckmans*, Artelli Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

*The Idiosyncratic Pencil Exhibition*, curated by Ann Stoddard, Harper Center for the Arts, SC Courant à contre-courant, curated by Emmanuel Lesgourgues, Collection Quasar, France

### 2017

*EXIL*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

*Lunchbox Fund Benefit*, New York, NY

*Goerk/Pagk/Welish, ART 3*, Silas Von Morisse Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

*Summer installation of works*, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY

*Social Photography V*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY

### 2016

*Visages de la ligne*, Fond Régional d'Art Contemporain (FRAC) Picardie, Amiens, France

*Sequence 6: one work, one week*, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY

*PPP Painters Painting on Paper*, Schema Projects, Brooklyn, NY

*Mamie Holst and Paul Pagk*, curated by Jane Kim, 33 Orchard, New York, NY

*5x5*, Edward Thorp Gallery, New York, NY

*Osamu Kobayashi and Paul Pagk*, Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, FL

**2015**

*The 40th Anniversary Exhibition*, Hal Bromm Gallery, New York, NY

*The Abstract Body*, curated by Craig Stockwell, The Sharon Arts Centre, Peterborough, NH

*ON PAPER Mamie Holst and Paul Pagk*, curated by Jane Kim, 33 Orchard, New York, NY

**2014**

*Material Way*, curated by Kathleen Kucka, Shirley Fitterman Art Gallery BMCC, New York

*(S)ITATIONS, La beauté devient avant-garde une passion privée*, Musée de Sarrebourg, France

*Summer Show: Focus on Painting*, FL Gallery Milan, Italy

*La main invente le dessin*, Abbaye de Saint-Riquier, FRAC Picardie, Amiens, France

*Brooklyn Bridge*, curated by Justine Frischmann, George Lawson Gallery, SF

**2013**

*Social Photography III*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY

*Come Together: Surviving Sandy, Year 1*, curated by Phong Bui, Dedalus foundation, Brooklyn, NY

*La main invente le dessin*, Abbaye de Saint-Riquier, FRAC Picardie, France

*Four Tet*, JiM Comtempori, Barcelona, Spain

*Emergence, A Proposition*, curated by Katrin Bremermann, Erin Lawlor & Yifat Gat, Hôtel de Sauroy, Paris, France

*Wit*, curated by Joanne Freeman, Painting Center, New York, NY

**2012**

*Around the corner, Four Painters Living in Tribeca: Hermine Ford, Joanne Greenbaum, Paul Pagk, Gary Stephan*, curated by Lucien Terras, New York, NY

*Line and Plane*, McKenzie Fine Art, New York, NY

*Surface Affect*, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY

*Noir et blanc*, Espace Henri Matisse, Creil, FRAC Picardie, France

*Wavers*, curated by EJ Hauser and Rob Nadeau, Brooklyn, NY

*Punctuation 8 /Inventer le dessin*, Musée du dessin et de l'estampe originale, Gravelines, FRAC Picardie, France

**2011**

*Social Photography II*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY

*A Romance of many Dimensions*, curated by Brent Hallard, BrooklynArtistGym, Brooklyn, NY

*A Review*, Edward Thorp Gallery, New York, NY

*A few of my favorite things*, The End, Brooklyn, NY

*70 Years of Abstract Painting – Excerpts*, Jason McCoy inc. New York, NY

*Paper A-Z*, Sue Scott Gallery, New York, NY

*Geometric Days*, curated by Papo Colo, Jeanette Ingberman and Herb Tam, Exit Art, New York

**2010**

*Social Photography I*, Carriage Trade, New York, NY

*Painting and Sculpture*, Foundation for Contemporary Art Benefit, Lehmann Maupin, New York

*Informal Relations*, curated by Scott Grow, Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, IN

*Geometric Progressions*, Edward Thorp Gallery, New York, NY

*Lush Life*, curated by Franklin Evans and Omar Lopez-Chahoud, Scaramouche, New York, NY

**2009**

*A fleur de peau II – Le dessin à l'épreuve*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

**2008**

*Present*, curated by Jay Murphy, HP Garcia Gallery, New York, NY

*Group Show*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

*Untitled (On Paper)*, Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY

**2007**

*Inside the Pale*, curated by Frank Schroder, Thrust Projects, New York, NY

*Orthodoxe/Hétérodoxe : choisir sa ligne*, Le 10neuf, C.R.A.C. Montbéliard, France

*Beyond the Pale*, curated by Candice Madey and Tairone Bastien, Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY

**2006**

*Trait, ligne, écrire l'espace*, F.R.A.C Beauvais, France

*Twist it Twice*, curated by Franklin Evans, Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY

*Hands up/Hand down*, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY

*A fleur de peau*, Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris, France

**2005**

*Excès de traits*, FRAC Picardie , Amiens, France

**2003**

*Le Cabinet 2*, curated by Ann Philbin, FRAC Picardie, Amiens, France

*Le Cabinet 1*, curated by Gabriel Orozco, FRAC Picardie, Amiens, France

**2002**

*Zenroxy*, curated by Ivan Vera, Von Lintel Gallery, New York, NY

**2001**

*Recent acquisitions*, FRAC Picardie, Amiens, France

**2000**

Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA

**1998**

C.R.A.C., Montbéliard, France

**1997**

*New York Draws*, Gas-Works, London, and Corner House, Manchester, UK

*Current under current*, Brooklyn Museum, New York, NY

**1996**

*Drawings*, AC Project Room, New York, NY

*Works on Paper*, Alona Kagan & Jose Martos, New York, NY

*Other Rooms*, Ronald Feldman Gallery, New York, NY

**1995**

*Metamorphose Part II*, Guillaume Gallozzi, New York, NY

*Summer Exhibition*, CRG Gallery, New York, NY

**1994**

*Logo Non Logo*, curated by Robert C. Morgan and Pierre Restany, Thread Waxing Space, New York, NY and University of South Florida, FL

Centre Lotois D'Art Contemporain, Figeac, France

*Written-Spoken-Drawn in Lacanian Ink*, curated by Raphael Rubinstein, Thread Waxing Space, NY

*Drawings*, Galerie Regards, Paris, France

**1993**

*Intérieurs*, Musée Goya, Castres, France

**1990**

*Abstract Painting*, curated by Robert C. Morgan, Nahan Contemporary, New York, NY

*Three Painters*, curated by Timothy Nye & Miguel Abreu, 470 Broome Street, New York, NY

**1988**

Galerie Jacques Girard, Toulouse, France

Park Floral de Paris, Paris, France

**1987**

*Carte Blanche à Yves Michaud*, CREDAC, Ivry, France

Centre Culturel de Brétigny, Brétigny-sur-Orge, France

**1986**

*L'Épure*, curated by Yves Michaud, Galerie Beau Lézard, Paris, France

**1984**

*Journées Jeunes Créateurs*, Espace Kiron, Paris, France

*Sur Invitation*, Musée des Arts Décoratifs, Paris, France

Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris, France

**1983**

55 Panoyaux, Paris, France

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

NY Foundation for the Arts - NYSCA/NYFA Artist Fellowship in Painting, 2018  
Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptures Grant, 2014  
Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, 2012  
Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Individual Support Grant, 2012  
Sheldon Bergh Award, 2000  
Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, 1998  
Prix Fénéon, Université de la Sorbonne, 1987

## PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC), France  
Fonds Régional d'Art Contemporain (FRAC) Picardie, France  
L'Artotec Limoges, France  
Les Abattoirs, Musée FRAC Occitanie Toulouse, France  
Pinault Collection, France  
Springfield Museum of Art, OH  
Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, NH

## BOOKS & CATALOGUES

Léger, Jean-Pascal. *Paul Pagk: Peintures et Dessins 2008-2021*, C.A.P. Royan, France, 2022  
Kaepelin, Olivier. *Paul Pagk: Ryhtmes et Structures*, Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis, France, 2021  
Guionnet, Daniel & Toubas, Valérie. *Portrait Paul Pagk*, Point Contemporain #21, France, 2021  
Multilayer - Vision 20/20, Stiftung Konzeptuelle Kunst, Soest, Germany, 2021, p. 40  
Korichi, Mériam. *Labyrinths of Perception / Les labyrinthes de la Perception*, Paul Pagk Interaction, 2019  
Léger, Jean-Pascal. *La Couleur*, C.A.P. Royan, France, 2019  
Guionnet, Daniel & Toubas, Valérie. *Portrait Paul Pagk*, Point Contemporain #14, France, 2019  
*Exit Art: Unfinished Memories 30 Years*, Ed Steidl Publishers and Exit Art, 2016, p. 389  
*Artists for Artists: Fifty Years of the Foundation for Contemporary Arts*, FCA, New York, 2013, pp. 200 & 204  
*560 Broadway - A New York Drawing Collection at Work, 1991-2006*, Fifth Floor Foundation NY with Yale University Press, 2008, p. 159  
Dahlem Franz. *Dadurich*, Book Polaroids Paul Pagk - To K from P, Berlin, Germany, 2007  
*Galerie Jean Fournier: Cartons d'invitation de 1955 à 2006*, (Pagk - 28 novembre 1987), Galerie Jean Fournier, 2007, p. 130  
*1990-2003 Prototypes: Oeuvres et expositions du Fonds régional d'art contemporain de Picardie*, FRAC Picardie, 2004, pp. 270-271  
Sirmans, Franklin. *Le principe de plaisir/The pleasure principle*, Catalogue Paul Pagk, le 19, Centre Régional d'Art Contemporain, Montbéliard, France, 1999  
Morgan, Robert C. *Logo Non Logo*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, 1994  
Nye, Tim. Interview, *Paul Pagk*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, 1993  
*Lacanian ink #7*, Back cover: Paul Pagk, New York, Spring/Summer 1993  
Dannatt, Adrian. *Paul Pagk*, Galerie Eric Dupont, 1992



Westfall, Christopher. *Paul Pagk*, Thread Waxing Space, New York, 1991  
Rubinstein, Raphael. *Paul Pagk* (exhibition cat.), Thread Waxing Space, New York, Sept-November 1991  
Abreu, Miguel. *Three Painters : Hyun Soo Choi, Jacqueline Humphries, Paul Pagk*, 470 Broome Street, New York, 1990  
Persin, Patrick-Gilles. Parc Floral de Paris, 1988  
Michaud, Yves. *Carte Blanche*, CREDAC, Ivry, 1987  
Cambon, Bernard. *Quand les formes génèrent les existences*, Catalogue Centre Culturel de Brétigny-sur-Orge, Marc 1987

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### 2022

Valdes, Emireth Herrera. "Paul Pagk: Queen of Spades", *The Brooklyn Rail*, NY, July-Aug  
Durand, Stephane. "Royan : Paul Pagk ou la force de la couleur", *Sud-Ouest*, France, July 12  
Vieira, Suzi. "Géométrie sensible avec Paul Pagk à la Fondation Fernet-Branca", *Poly Magazine*, France, January

### 2021

Ebony, David. "Memento Mori can Be Fun", *Art in America*, March

### 2019

Maine, Stephen. "*The Abstract Zeigeist in Storrs: Beverly Fishman, Marilyn Lerner, Paul Pagk, Joanna Pousette-Dart, Cary Smith*", *Two Coats of Paint*, New York, November  
de Santis, Sophie. "Les couleurs musicales de Paul Pagk", *Figaro & Figaroscope*, France, April

### 2017

Goldstein, Caroline. Artnet Editors' Picks: 11 Things to See in New York This Week: 1- Goerk/Welish/Pagk, *Artnet*, August

### 2016

Crenn, Julie. "Paul Pagk", *Artpress.com*, February  
de Hann, Cécile. "Paul Pagk Portrait", *Artoris magazine*, May

### 2015

Clarke, Bill. "Paul Pagk, 33 Orchard Gallery", *Magenta Magazine*, June  
Keeting, Zachary. Video Interview of Paul Pagk, *Gorky's Granddaughter*, April  
Happersett, Susan. "Paul Pagk at 33 Orchard Gallery", *Fibonacci*, February

### 2014

Malherbe, Anne. "Paul Pagk, Vivacité de l'abstraction", *Artpress.com*, October  
Dannatt, Adrian. "Our Secret Hidden Master Painter Paul Pagk", *Artcritical*, September

### 2013

Stout, Christopher. "Paul Pagk: 18 Drawings and 1 Painting", *Arts in Bushwick*, April

### 2011

Ashley, Chris. "Paul Pagk: Essay on the Mesquite Drawings", *Some Walls*, April  
Butler, Sharon. Geometry is real, *Two Coats of Paint*, March  
"Over 40: Under the Radar", *Modern Painters*, February

#### **2010**

Hallard, Brent. "Conversation with Paul Pagk", *Visual Discrepancies*

#### **2007**

Cohen, David. "Idiosyncratic Intellectualism", *The Sun*, March 8  
Lewis, Jacquelyn. "Interview Paul Pagk at Moti Hasson", *Artinfo*, February 27

#### **2003**

Douglas, Sarah. Paul Pagk review, *Artnewspaper*, May

#### **2002**

Abreu, Miguel. "Les Harmonies de Paul Pagk", *Connaissance des Arts* #592, pp 74-77, March

#### **2000**

Grenier, Alexandre. *Pariscope* review, September  
Sausset, Damien. *L'OEil*, September

#### **1999**

Sirmans, Franklin. "Paul Pagk at CRG", *Flash Art review*, March-April

#### **1998**

Morgan, Robert C. *Review*, January 15

#### **1995**

Van de Walle, Marc. *Artforum review*, November

#### **1993**

Rubinstein, Raphael. *Art in America review*, September  
Kuspit Donald. *Artforum review*, Summer  
Cotter, Holland. *The New York Times* review, April  
Pinchbeck, Daniel. *Art & Antiques (Openings)*, March

#### **1992**

Cabidoche, Laurence. *Artpress review*, December  
Pinte, Jean-Louis. "Un accent d'avant-garde", *Figaroscope*, January-March  
Dannatt, Adrian. *Flash Art review*, January-February  
Morgan, Robert C. "The Endgame", *Tema Celeste*, January-March

#### **1991**

Sweet, Christopher. "Paul Pagk, Thread Waxing space", *ARTnews review*

**1988**

Agboton, Jean-Charles. *Art Press review*, February 1988

**1986**

Poitevin, Jean-Louis. "Promenade dans les Galeries Parisiennes", *Kanal*, March 1986

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"James Bishop", edited by Molly Warnock, *Transatlantique*, ER Publishing, 2021, pp. 34-39