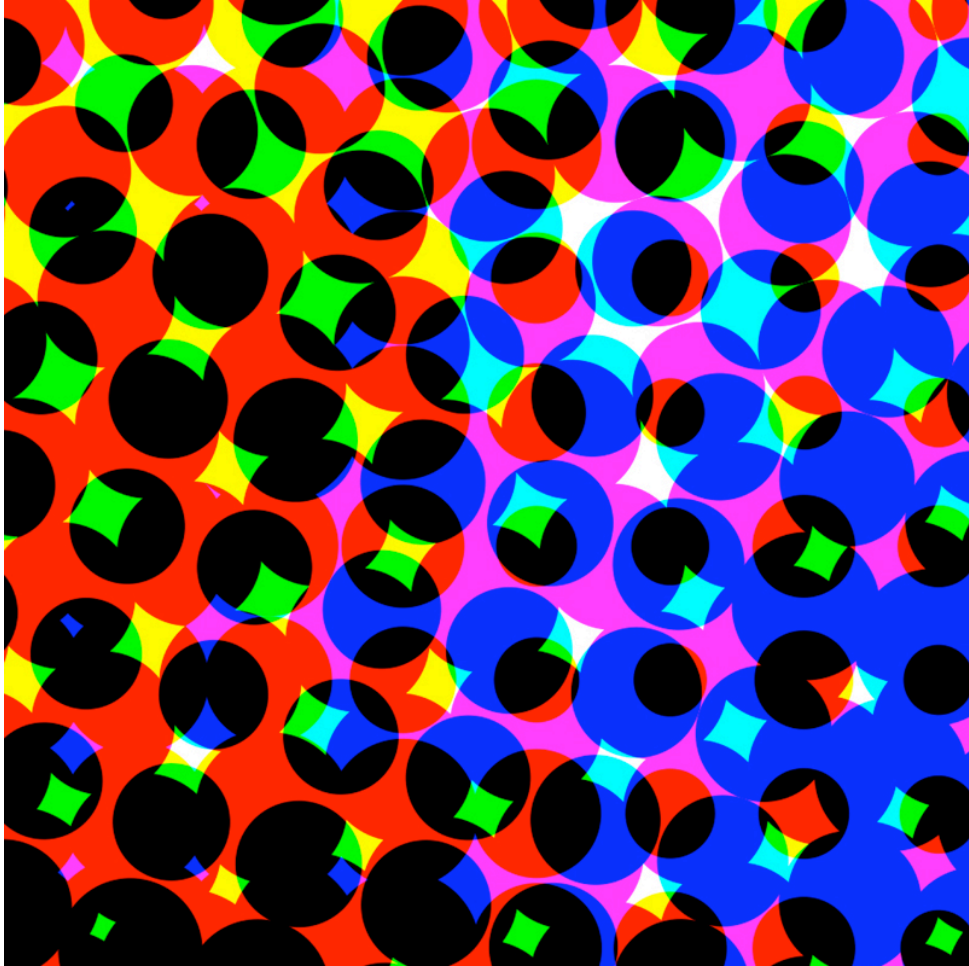


**PAUL KOLKER GALLERY**

PAUL KOLKER  
WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

January 17 to Feb 28, 2013  
511 West 25th Street  
New York, NY 10001



*Pictured above is a detail of "Reflection of the Artist," 2012, inkjet and acrylic on canvas, 132×132 inches*

Paul Kolker Gallery is pleased to present "Water, Water Everywhere", an exhibition of Kolker's new works on canvas based on his iPhone photographs of his Chelsea gallery's flooding during megastorm Sandy.

Hanging on his basement gallery walls were the canvases and light sculptures of his exhibition, "Reflections on Roberts Rules," about the

past hundred years of healthcare reform. On steel carts in his art storage rooms were more than a hundred panels of paintings readied for his exhibition, "Speak to Me!," which ran from November 15, 2012 through January 4, 2013. Eight months earlier a flood control monitoring system with ejector pumps was installed to protect property and contents. But without forewarning and after the storm passed over Manhattan, power in Chelsea was shut down...and, shockingly, there was no generator backup to activate the pumps of the flood control system.

Wearing calf high boots, carrying a small flashlight and armed with his iPhone camera, Kolker discovered that his gallery was covered with 14 inches of water as he marked it on his boots. The waves that were generated by his careful walking nearly splashed on to the bottoms of the paintings that hung 18 inches off the floor. Paintings on a dolly, along with the dolly, were floating flat on the surface of the water like flotsam from a ship wreck; as were the pedestals, boxes, rolls of canvas and print media. The art storage and studio spaces had as much as 17 inches of water, wreaking havoc on the electric scissors lift, sculptures and the steel carts filled with paintings.

Holding the iPhone and flashlight in each hand, Kolker made his way to explore the waters covered in abysmal darkness, like the scriptural verse in Genesis. It was already 18 or more hours since the flooding and there were no battery powered emergency lights or generator driven lights working in the spaces. He laboriously lifted what he could out of the water on to tables, file cabinets and racks. From the side stairs, and out of the water, he emailed and spoke with his staff about his efforts and what was shortly in store for aggressive art conservation. Already early in the aftermath of the storm, Museum of Modern Art department of conservation was emailing and posting on door fronts instructions and contact information for gallerists and artists on what to do. And only days later, Roberta Smith and Jerry Saltz each wrote about the flood to let us know that we are sorry for each others losses and pain in the journey towards healing... and that the strengths of our formidable arts culture, which are dependent on our creative impulses and eagerness to make new art, is the medicine prescribed!

It is nearly 3 months since the Chelsea flood and Kolker, whose works are founded in photography, has compiled those low resolution dark field photographs that serendipitously pixelated themselves to look like mezzotints. Like the profane becoming holy, the flood behaved as a ritual immersion pool to revitalize the artist and his gallery. Struggling

in the dark to activate the flash on his iPhone while holding the flashlight, Kolker accidentally discharged the camera and inadvertently photographed the reflection of his face in the floodwaters. Although unintended, the low-resolution image that has auto pixelated itself is further transformed with Kolker's latest ishidots, giving the illusion of the stained glass window or the Tiffany lampshade.

In similar fashion, Kolker has transformed his photographic first impression of his gallery and studio submerged by using his painterly tools as depicted above in "reflection of the artist, up close, 2012."

Paul Kolker: "Water, Water Everywhere" is on view at Paul Kolker Gallery at 511 West 25th Street in Chelsea between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues from January 17 through Feb. 28th.

For more information please call 212.367.7300, contact [info@paulkolker.com](mailto:info@paulkolker.com) and visit [www.paulkolker.com](http://www.paulkolker.com).

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