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Freddie Styles

September 20 to October 20, 2012

New York, New York, August 30, 2012 – Bill Hodges Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of the nature-inspired works of abstractionist artist Freddie Styles with an opening on September 20, from 6-8 pm.

Freddie Styles' visually stunning works come from a place of reverence for as well as a strong understanding of nature. Styles is a gardener and has a great love and appreciation for rural living. His interest in natural and elemental forms is readily apparent in his works. Unlike Jackson Pollock, who was also interested in natural forms and strong all-over compositions, Styles' work comes even closer to the elemental power of nature. It does this by formally alluding to many different aspects of its appearance as well as its yearly cycle, such as the icy whites and blues of winter, and the radiant reds, greens, and yellows of spring. In some works, the small and repetitious, almost pointillist brushstrokes reference nature's vastness as can be found in a brilliant field full of flower. Others have large fields of monochrome color dotted by dark lines that resemble the cracks and crevices in a vast ice-scape. These elements give you the feeling that through their constant yet chaotic rhythm, they could extend infinitely beyond the edges of the canvas.



Study In Green, White and Silver #3, 2011
Acrylic on Gessoed Lenox 100 Rag Paper
30 x 22 in.



Working Roots Series Yellow, 2011
Acrylic on Gessoed Lenox 100 Rag Paper
30 x 22 in.

Styles even uses nature itself in creating the work, such as in the "Roots" series where he substitutes azalea plant roots for the traditional paintbrush, and in so doing incorporates it into the very act of making. Despite his commitment to nature he also has a dedication to abstraction, and while his works allude to the natural world and to its forms, they are still solidly non-representational. It is these allusions to nature which give them their power, perhaps more than any specific imagery of natural objects could.

He has developed a distinctive method of working involving pressing multiple sheets of fax paper onto a gessoed paper surface after crumpling up and applying ink to the paper. He also adds metallic inks to the works, which gives them more dimensionality. It is impressive that a process that involves such cultural objects as metallic ink and fax paper can create a work that comes so close to exhibiting nature's beauty.

An Atlanta native, Freddie Styles is also a Morris Brown College Graduate. He has received awards from the Atlanta Life Insurance Company and the King Baudouin Foundation Cultural Exchange Program grant. He has appeared in group exhibitions at the Telfair Museum of Art in Savannah, GA and the High Museum in Atlanta, GA. He has had works exhibited in US embassies in Freetown, Sierra Leone and Port of Spain, Trinidad, as well as at the State of Georgia Art Collection, the Paul Jones Collection, King and Spalding LLP, Spelman College, Clark Atlanta University Art Museum, and the Airport Atrium Gallery of Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International airport.

The Bill Hodges Gallery specializes in historically significant African American Art. The gallery is located on the 6th floor of 24 West 57th Street between 5th and 6th Avenue. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday 10am-6pm and Saturday 12:30-5:30pm.

BILL HODGES GALLERY

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