

MODERNISM

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Gallery Exhibition Schedule

Andreas NOTTEBOHM: *Electrical Ether*

January 15–February 28, 2015



KN-2093, 2015, raw metal, 35 7/8 x 79 7/8 inches

Working at a Munich printing plant as a young man, Andreas Nottebohm started painting on discarded aluminum printing plates. Drawn to the ways in which sanded metal surfaces diffuse light, he has since spent four decades mastering the art of oil painting on aluminum, gradually refining his technique to reveal "windows into the universe" through his treatment of the metal itself.

On the fortieth anniversary of Nottebohm's first work on metal, Modernism is proud to present *Electrical Ether*, his third one-person exhibition in the gallery. The 15 works in the exhibition are imbued with Nottebohm's longstanding interest in art and science. Informed by astrophysics and fractal geometry, they are shimmering works of pure abstraction that "show people worlds they've never before seen," he explains. The illusionistic effects – which appear holographic, changing with the viewer's position and angle of light – are realized with the action of a rotary sander on raw metal, informed by a deep knowledge of optics as well as tromp l'oeil painting.

Exhibited extensively worldwide, and featured in the collections of major museums in Europe, Asia and the U.S., Nottebohm's art has been favorably compared to the work of pioneering light artists – including Robert Irwin and Larry Bell – and has been widely admired by critics and curators. University of Arizona Art Museum Curator Lauren Raab describes Nottebohm's raw metal works as "portals of energy, pulsing and breathing." And Crocker Art Museum Director Lial A. Jones observes that "Nottebohm's paintings go beyond the dialogue on

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painting's nature to argue that there is more to the act of seeing than contemporary art criticism has recognized. He asserts with each reflection, and push-pull between surface and depth, that while infinite complexity may escape our reading, it nonetheless may be understood."



KN-2095, 2015, oil on aluminum, 38 x 29 ½ inches

Nottebohm has equally attracted a broad following of scientific admirers. In 1981, he was officially chosen to commemorate the first launch of the space shuttle Columbia. His artwork can now be found in the collections of Stephen Hawking, the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, and NASA (for which he served as an artist-in-residence alongside Robert Rauschenberg).

In the words of science fiction author Ray Bradbury, Nottebohm's art is "mysterious and beautiful". For Nottebohm, those qualities are inevitable outcomes of the universe reflected in each artwork.

Modernism is pleased to invite the public to attend an opening reception on Thursday, January 29, 5:30-8PM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 415/541-0461 / FAX: 415/541-0425,
OR EMAIL TO: INFO@MODERNISMINC.COM.

HI-RES IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.