

Jeffrey
Deitch

FRANK STELLA RECENT SCULPTURE

MARCH 8 - APRIL 20, 2024
18 WOOSTER STREET, NEW YORK

Double wide flatbed trucks navigated the bridges into Manhattan to transport five monumental works by Frank Stella to Jeffrey Deitch's SoHo gallery.

They are among the most ambitious and most radical works being made by any artist today. They extend Stella's forms even further into three dimensions. The works are not painted sculptures or relief paintings. They completely fuse painting and sculpture in a way that has never been achieved before. All but one of these works are being exhibited for the first time.



Frank Stella said that one of the objectives of his recent artistic approach has been to “build a painting rather than painting a painting.” The new work is a realization of this ambition. Stella combines traditional artists’ techniques with high technology to create his new work. His monumental sculptures begin with computer models that are transformed into a series of small sculptural maquettes through 3-D printing. The artist refines these models in the studio and then sends them to fabricators in the Netherlands and Belgium where they are engineered and constructed using technology derived from shipbuilding. The sections are then shipped to Stella’s studio in the Hudson Valley where they are refined and painted with automotive paint.

The exhibition features works from two series, *Scarlatti Sonata Kirkpatrick* from 2014, and *Atlantic Salmon Rivers* from 2021-23. The *Scarlatti Sonata Kirkpatrick* sculptures are created with high density foam covered in fiberglass. *The Grand Cascapedia*, inspired by the Canadian river known for salmon fishing, is made from aluminum. As in all of Stella’s work, the forms embody their materials. The materials inspire the forms.

Stella's work of the 1980s were characterized by its extension of two-dimensional painting into his version of baroque space. These new works extend beyond baroque space into outer space. The forms seem to float in anti-gravity. They ascend, transcending their weight. They do not have front or a back, existing in the round.

Frank Stella has expanded the art discourse for more than six decades. His new work continues to advance art into a place where it has never been before.

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