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# DARREN WATERSTON

## *Architectonic Forms*

January 6 – February 25, 2017

Opening Reception: Thursday, January 12, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Haines Gallery is pleased to present *Architectonic Forms*, a solo exhibition featuring new and recent works by New York-based artist Darren Waterston.

*Architectonic Forms* is Waterston's ninth solo exhibition with Haines Gallery, and follows his nationally touring installation *Filthy Lucre*, a reimagining of James McNeil Whistler's eccentric masterpiece of decorative art, the *Peacock Room*. Exhibited for the first time on the West Coast, Waterston's newest body of work continues to explore the coalescence between painting and architecture in Western art history, while reflecting the artist's sustained interest in the allegorical, alchemical and apocalyptic.

In this exhibition, Waterston draws directly from devotional architectural structures such as Renaissance altarpieces, confessional screens and Gothic partitions, reinterpreting them as magnetic and even menacing painterly objects. Familiar religious iconography is transformed into apocalyptic landscapes, gestural flourishes and paint-scarred surfaces characteristic of Waterston's work. The centerpiece of the exhibition, *Triptych (twilight)*, is based on Matthias Grünewald's sixteenth century masterpiece, *The Isenheim Altar*, and casts a spectral halo from the back of its hinged panels. At once intriguing and foreboding, the works hint at something darker lurking beneath their surfaces and demonstrate paradoxical ideas of attraction and revulsion.

Says Waterston, "*Esthetic collisions of beauty and the grotesque are continuously found in my work. This is what ecstasy is, transcendence through rhapsody and terror.*"

Darren Waterston (b. 1965; Lives and works in New York) received his BFA at the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles. He continued his training in Germany, studying painting at the Akademie der Künste in Berlin and the Kunstakademie Münster. He is the recipient of the Richard C. Diebenkorn Teaching Fellowship at the San Francisco Art Institute (2004), and the Civitella Ranieri Foundation Fellowship in Umbertide, Italy (2005), where he was an artist-in-residence. Waterston has been showcased in solo exhibitions at Bellevue Art Museum, WA (2003); San Jose Museum of Art, CA (2006); Cantor Arts Center, Stanford University, CA (2009); Poet's House, New York, NY (2013); MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA (2014–2015); and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. (2016–2017). His works are included in the collections of institutions such as Los Angeles County Museum of Art, CA; Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA; Oakland Museum of California; Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, CA; the Crocker Art Museum, Sacramento, CA; the Seattle Art Museum, WA; and Portland Art Museum, OR.



Darren Waterston, *Triptych (twilight) and Predella*, 2014  
oil on wood panel  
80 x 131 inches; 21.5 x 83.5 inches



Darren Waterston, *Double-Sided Screen (Chasm)*, 2014  
oil on wood panel  
96 x 60 x 16 inches