

ACQUAVELLA GALLERIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Acquavella Galleries Presents
Jacob El Hanani Linescape: Four Decades
On View October 2 -November 17, 2017
Opening Reception with the Artist: September 27th, 6 – 8pm

New York, July 27, 2017 - Acquavella Galleries is pleased to present their second exhibition of works by Jacob El Hanani, *Jacob El Hanani Linescape: Four Decades*, from October 2- November 17, 2017. Fourteen works on canvas will be shown alongside fifteen works on paper, spanning forty years of his career.

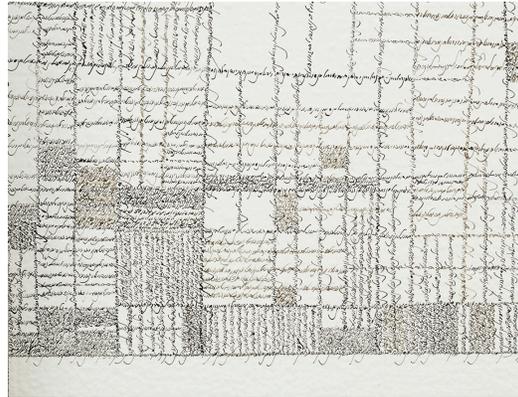
Since moving to New York in the early 1970s, El Hanani has been meticulously crafting his drawings, fusing the ancient Hebrew tradition of micrography with a contemporary minimalist aesthetic to create his unique body of work. His works on paper employ thousands of microscopic marks made with a Rapidograph technical pen, while in his works on canvas he utilizes the centuries-old method of applying ink with a quill.

Through these idiosyncratic practices the artist creates highly detailed surfaces that need to be seen up close to appreciate their intricate patterns and craftsmanship. These complex works often draw on personal and historical references, and can take months or even years to complete.

The exhibition title “linescape” references El Hanani’s interpretation of the theme of landscape. Though at first these works appear abstract and indebted to the aesthetic rigors of minimalism, they also subtly evoke the history of landscape painting. Inspired by Turner’s dramatic sense of light and atmosphere, several of the works are named for the British master, while others draw from Mondrian’s linear grids to achieve a feeling of urban landscape.



NOF-Line, 2016-17
Ink on gessoed canvas
50 x 50 inches



(Left) *Untitled (from the Mondrian series)*, 2016, ink on paper, 18 x 18 inches,
(Right) detail highlighting El Hanani's micrographic technique

For the artist, these works represent a liberation from his highly detailed and rigidly structured earlier series. He explains: “For many decades, I was working under a self-imposed austerity, but many artists, as they get older, release themselves and tend to embrace a freer, more lyrical style. When I start one of these drawings, I don’t know exactly how it will end; they are allowed to evolve on their own.”

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalog including essays by Raphael Rubinstein and Joshua Halberstam.

Jacob El Hanani (b. 1947) Born in Casablanca and raised in Israel, El Hanani studied at the Avni School of Fine Arts in Tel Aviv and the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris before moving to New York in the early 1970s. His work can be found in the permanent collections of institutions including The Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum of Art, New York; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; Musée National d’Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris; The British Museum, London; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The Menil Collection, Houston; The Philadelphia Museum of Art; the National Gallery of Art, Washington; and The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

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