

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

LEMON SKY

With Vian Borchert, Philip Gerstein, Augustus Goertz, Sandra Gottlieb, Victoria Lowe, Joyce Pommer and Martin Weinstein.

Concept by Priska Juschka.

Exhibition Dates: JUNE 1 — JUNE 24, 2023

OPENING RECEPTION: THURSDAY, JUNE 1 | 5:30 — 8 PM

Press Release:

Lichtundfire is pleased to announce and welcomes all to the Opening Reception of LEMON SKY, an exhibition bringing together work in various media, from abstraction to abstracted representation, that comments on the color of a lemon summer sky when the blue turns yellow, and when the air simmers in the heat — amidst bountiful fields and over shores and beaches. Here, the work is connected by color — from light hues of pale yellow to a yellow-richer palette, or side by side other colors, emphasizing the strength of a color that alludes to the heat of a summer day under the scorching sun.

Yellow, in general, on the spectrum of light, is evoked by light with a dominant wavelength of roughly 575–585 nm. The sunlight's slightly yellow hue when the sun is near the horizon, is caused by atmospheric scattering of shorter wavelengths (green, blue, and violet); and in Visual Arts, Yellow is one of the primary colors, used in painting, color printing a.o. when mixing colors. Prominent in nature, Carotenoids give the characteristic yellow color to plants (corn, daffodils, buttercups, roses, turmeric root, saffron, bananas, lemons and many others) as well as to animals (canaries, egg yolks etc.) — while also absorbing light energy and protecting plants from photo damage in some cases.

Because it was widely available in minerals as well as plants, yellow ochre pigment was one of the first colors used in visual art—the Lascaux cave in France reveals a painting of a yellow, approximately 17,000 years old horse, and Ochre and orpiment pigments represented gold and skin color in Egyptian tombs and in the murals in Roman villas.

Yellow was a ceremonious color formerly associated with the Pope, and still remains as the only color in the Vatican Flag, representing the golden keys of Peter of the “Kingdom of Heaven”. In China, it was worn by the emperor and his household while guests were welcomed on a yellow carpet.

Today, in large regions of the world, yellow is the color most often associated with emotions that signify a “*lightness of being*”, such as humor, happiness, and spontaneity; however it is also associated with conflicted emotions such as duplicity, jealousy, envy and greed. It seem to have lost its connotations for glory, harmony and wisdom that still remain, especially in China and many Asian countries.

There is no doubt, *Yellow* and *Gold*, etymologically are intertwined and interconnected with

recurring meanings/connotations throughout the Indo-Germanic language base, and even reaching into Celtic languages as well as into the usually separate, large Turkic language family. GUL=YELLOW in Norwegian and Swedish, but can also be found in Turkic languages, especially as a name or part of a name—reaching from Turkish to Kazakh. GUL/GÜL/GOLD/GELB. The English word YELLOW derives from the Old English GEOLU. In German, the word for money is GELD, and, obviously, money was once yellow when it was gold. We associate wealth and wisdom with the color yellow, and simultaneously with envy and greed. It was perceived that a wise “man”/person usually had money; as described in the proverb by Benjamin Franklin about getting up early and to bed at sunset- “Early to bed and early to rise” that made a man supposedly “healthy, wealthy and wise”..

Lemon or lemon-color is a vivid yellow color characteristic of the lemon fruit, also associated with fluorescent tones, and first recorded as a color name in English in 1598. We find the reflection of this color when the sunlight filters through the green plants and trees. As something “fluorescent” is also equated with something poisonous, we seem to have come full circle on the connotations of Yellow that lead us from an uplifting, soothing and positive color connotation to a more sinister interpretation. Such as, Lemon Sky, notably an award winning film based on a semi-autobiographical drama by avant-garde playwright Lanford Wilson, brings us back to the other connotations of yellow that deal with human actions and emotions of deceit, dishonesty and jealousy.

In this exhibition, the artists choose yellow freely and differently, and with their own media but all to describe and interpret a certain kind of emotional state, state of being or a natural sensation recorded by our eyes.

For additional information, images, events and to arrange an appointment, please contact Priska Juschka at 917.675.7835 or info@lichtundfire.com .

About Lichtundfire:

LICHTUNDFIRE was established in 2015, with a visual program emphasizing nonrepresentational, conceptual, and abstract art; especially minimal, color field, geometrical, straight edge, abstract expressionist painting, lyrical abstraction, and process work in all media, as well as abstracted, conceptual representation.

By its exhibitions, Lichtundfire's program is dedicated to developing and nurturing an active, engaged, progressive, and emancipated art community that addresses cultural and social realities as expressed through visual arts.

Beyond its carefully curated visual program, Lichtundfire seeks to actively connect with other parts of the creative community, especially in the field of poetry, literature, philosophy and Critical Theory.

GALLERY HOURS: Wed — Sat, 12—6 pm and TUESDAY BY APPOINTMENT.

To schedule an appointment, please email Priska Juschka at info@lichtundfire.com

Subway Stop: F/M or J/Z to Delancey & Essex Streets

Instagram: [@lichtundfire](https://www.instagram.com/lichtundfire) and hashtag: [#lichtundfire](https://www.instagram.com/lichtundfire)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lichtundfire>

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www.lichtundfire.com