

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

UNFORCED ORDER —

Paintings by PHILIP GERSTEIN and JO ANN ROTHSCHILD

Curated by Priska Juschka. Concept by Philip Gerstein.

Exhibition Dates: December 6, 2023 — January 6, 2024

OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8 | 5:30 — 8 PM

Press Release:

Lichtundfire is pleased to announce and welcomes all to the OPENING RECEPTION of UNFORCED ORDER — Paintings by PHILIP GERSTEIN and JO ANN ROTHSCHILD, an exhibition of paintings in various media — stimulating and engaging a conversation between the work by the two Boston-based abstract artists.

UNFORCED ORDER refers to the selection and order that go into a curatorial concept when a decision is called for — but also, as both artists are concerned, to their actual work that is expressive and intuitive, virtuosic and delicate at the same time.

Philip Gerstein and Jo Ann Rothschild, both with a visually rich palette, demonstrate that painting can be bountiful and plentiful when it comes to brushstroke, color, medium, materials — and references. The two artists have much in common when it comes to the richness of art historical and visual awareness, clearly unafraid of quoting their predecessors nor of standing on the shoulders of former visual giants-. Both, Philip Gerstein and Jo Ann Rothschild, enjoy color, line, process, texture and the richness of expression. They seem to be intent on delving into the possibilities that painting, and art-making in general — can offer, and with an energetic and visual exuberance and an abundance of forms, lines and mark-making on canvas, panel or paper.

Notably, there are differences, too. Jo Ann Rothschild tends to lean toward a more tactile and intricate approach, revealing touch and distinct subtleties — even on larger scale, and with a full spectrum of radiant colors in oil on linen or canvas. While Philip Gerstein, even though often with flatter, more open and rather color-specific compositions, seems to gravitate to a vigorous gestural approach, supported by bold texture when applying acrylic paint, oil stick, flashe, lacquer and other materials on their surfaces. There is also a difference in *time of perception* — how the work instills itself in the viewer's synaptic conception and awareness: Philip Gerstein's work regularly appears to communicate foremost exogenously and directly, while Jo Ann Rothschild's seems to require mainly longer contemplation for her nuanced compositions to not only penetrate the receptors of the retina—but, equally, to seep into the viewer's consciousness. Both are abstract painters, however neither work is formal or formulaic; and they both show a freedom of composition and expression that allows them to work fully with their medium/s.

And, arguably, as much as their work embraces one another, it also demonstrates how at times, and at first impression, small differences in terms of their choices and their visual execution can lead the way from a more common ground to often far different results in the end.

Philip Gerstein and Jo Ann Rothschild, both artists with their own individual vision and artistic language, succeed to put their strength as painters forward in this exhibition while showing their audience that one can be more than the sum of all parts — both, alone and together.

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.

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\](https://www.facebook.com/lichtundfire)

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

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

Lichtundfire: 175 Rivington Street, NY NY 10002
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Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 pm, or Tuesday by appointment
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