



# RUIZ-HEALY ART

Contemporary Art from Latin America & Texas

Patricia Ruiz-Healy, Director Ruiz-Healy Art FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 1/16/2018  
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## *Mark Schlesinger: Hello Stranger(s)*

The exhibition will be on display January 24 – March 10, 2018  
RUIZ-HEALY ART 201-A East Olmos Drive, San Antonio Texas 78212  
Opening reception 6 - 8 pm Wednesday, January 24, 2018  
Catalogue with Essay by Michael Schreyach

Ruiz-Healy Art, San Antonio, Texas, is proud to present a solo exhibition of paintings and watercolors by Mark Schlesinger (B. Brooklyn, New York). *Hello Stranger(s)*, opens on Wednesday January 24, and will be on view through March 10, 2018.

In the exhibition catalogue, Michael Schreyach, Associate Professor of Art History at Trinity University and author of *Pollock's Modernism* (Yale University Press, 2017) writes, "Schlesinger's imagery is motivated on some fundamental level by his sense of the possibilities of representing, through abstract pictorial form, the body's infinitely variable modes of touching, feeling, and being."

As a painter whose work concentrates on an exploration of lines, planes, and shapes, Schlesinger is enthralled with the formal elements of painting such as color and the visual tactility of material. He is especially known for creating his own paint for whatever support and ground he is using, from unconventional studio paints for use on traditional materials such as canvas, linen, and wood, to new paints for unusual materials such as plastic, stone, and concrete.

For this exhibition, Schlesinger created a matte acrylic polymer paint that looks like wax when it dries. Using this medium to glue raw canvas to a flat faced wooden frame rather than stapling it to a beveled edged stretcher, cutting out shapes from raw canvas and then gluing each to the canvas support, Schlesinger begins each of these paintings with a declared and structured composition. From this expressed intention and through the process of discovering the spatial conflicts effected by contrasts of color, texture, shape, and form, Schlesinger patiently looks for the unexpected painterly event which when explored allows the painting in turn, to come to him.

Following his participation in the Whitney Museum of Art's Independent Study Program, 1971-72, Schlesinger lived and worked in a Lower East Side Manhattan loft, and worked as Lee



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Krasner's studio assistant as he began and developed his career. In 1979, his paintings were included in *American Painting: The Eighties*, curated by Barbara Rose, and has been exhibited in New York, nationally, and internationally since then.

He has lectured at museums and schools, including The Menil Collection where he shared his studies and thoughts on Barnett Newman and the San Antonio Museum of Art where he spoke about Matisse's *JAZZ*. He has published many articles including the catalog essay for a Willem de Kooning show at the Thomas Ammann Gallery in Zurich, Switzerland. Schlesinger received a grant from the Pollock-Krasner Foundation in 1995, and in 1996, was awarded a resident fellowship by the Rockefeller Foundation for its study center in Bellagio, Italy.

In 2004, after moving to San Antonio, Texas, he had a mid-career solo show at the Westfaelischer Kunstverein in Muenster, Germany, entitled *Paintings 1993-2003 New York-Texas*. Dr. Carina Plath, Deputy Director and Curator of Painting and Sculpture at the Sprengel Museum in Hanover, Germany curated the exhibition.

From 2008 to 2013, Schlesinger expanded his studio practice and worked exclusively on large outdoor public paintings, including two bridges spanning the San Antonio River, a 1.2-mile streetscape, and a two-block-long painting in Georgetown, Texas, which incorporated a sloping retaining wall and its adjacent sidewalks and staircase. In 2010, his public painting on the 9th Street Bridge over the San Antonio River was awarded the Best Public Project of the last 10 years by the Downtown Alliance of San Antonio.

In 2013, Schlesinger began working in a new studio in San Antonio and returned to domestic sized paintings. This is his first gallery show in over 11 years and his first with Ruiz-Healy Art.

## **About Ruiz-Healy Art**

Founded in 2004, Ruiz-Healy Art specializes in Post-War and contemporary works of art with an emphasis on Latin American and Texas connected artists. The Texas-based gallery is located in the historic Olmos Park District of San Antonio with open hours of Tuesday – Saturday 11:00 - 4:00 p.m. and by appointment. RHA in NYC is by appointment only. To request high-resolution images and more information, please contact [alana@ruizhealyart.com](mailto:alana@ruizhealyart.com) or call the number above.

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