

An abstract painting featuring horizontal bands of color. The top section is dark with streaks of magenta and red. Below this is a wide, textured band of teal and dark blue. The middle section is predominantly dark, with the text 'BRUNO KURZ' overlaid. The bottom section consists of horizontal bands of magenta, red, and dark blue, with some lighter, more textured areas. The overall style is expressive and layered.

BRUNO KURZ

BRUNO KURZ

BRUNO KURZ

BBNIO KNBZ

front & back cover:
MYSTERIOUS LIGHT 1
acrylic & oil on metal
28 x 28 in/ 70 x 70 cm



196-198 Davenport Road | Toronto ON M5R 1J2 Canada | 416.962.0438 or 800.551.2465

Wandering The Sublime

After translating the German titles of Bruno Kurz's new collection of work, the oft-repeated *Licht* (light) cannot be underplayed in his oeuvre. Growing up on the shore of Lake Constance in southern Germany, Kurz has carried the importance of the landscape and sense of adventure throughout his practice. In doing this, he weaves together the philosophy of abstraction and ideals of Romanticism. His recent body of work is a rigorous investigation into the nature of light and its many-splendored effects.

When thinking of Bruno Kurz, an artist and explorer, trekking Nordic locales - Greenland, the Hebrides, Iceland, not to mention our Bruce Peninsula - the image of Caspar David Friedrich's *Wanderer above the Sea of Fog*, 1818, comes immediately to mind. In many ways, Kurz reimagines the vantage point of Friedrich's *Rückenfigur*, the gentleman with his back to the viewer contemplating the "lighted air" below. Kurz offers no barrier to his *Himmellicht*, the heavenly light that his works transcribe. In much the same way that Romanticism swept away German artists from the academy and into nature at the end of the 18th century, and like his Romantic ancestors, Kurz revels in the grandeur and grace of the natural world. His paintings are reflections on the sublime, a concept long understood by the Romantics as the attempt to capture the wonder of that which lies beyond the finite.

Heavenly Light in Crimson 1 (fig. 2) is Kurz's reanimation of the sublime. He has eliminated figurative elements; beyond the faint notion of a horizon, he captures the dynamism and tangibility of light, in its many coloured tones. In this work, he explores the emotive power of red, pink, green, orange and black streaked skies, as they shimmer through his use of metal panels, heightening the viewer's sense of staring into the great beyond.

The most poignant expression of Kurz's metaphysical vision may be seen in *In the Light of Air* (fig. 7), a monumental triptych that takes us through an imagined atmosphere. We are amid the particulate that makes up the sky and can see the refracted light as if through a prism. While the untutored observer of our wide expanse might see blue, Kurz opens our imagination. The middle panel of the painting creates a dance between the various shades of blue, pink, green and soft yellow, that make up his sky. The tactility of this painting comes from his nuanced impasto techniques, lines of raised paint are neatly slated together vertically in that Yves Klein blue, juxtaposed against the horizontal thick layers of light blue beside it. The buildup of colour, texture and materiality, ultimately impart the artist's own sense of awe at the natural world that clearly inspired this work.

Meghan O'Callaghan



CASPAR DAVID FRIEDRICH (1774-1840)
Wanderer above the Sea of Fog, 1818
oil on canvas
37 x 29 in / 95 x 75 cm
Kunsthalle Hamburg





“ He captures the dynamism
and tangibility of light,
in its many coloured tones. ”







5 PURPLE ICE | acrylic and resin on metal | 49 x 49 in / 125 x 125 cm



6 CARBON ICE | acrylic and resin on metal | 49 x 49 in / 125 x 125 cm

“ We are amid the particulate that makes up the sky
and can see the refracted light as if through a prism. ”





8 SWEEPING SKY - WHITE | acrylic and oil on metal | 39 x 39 in / 100 x 100 cm



9 HEAVENLY LIGHT IN RED | acrylic and resin on metal | 39 x 39 in / 100 x 100 cm



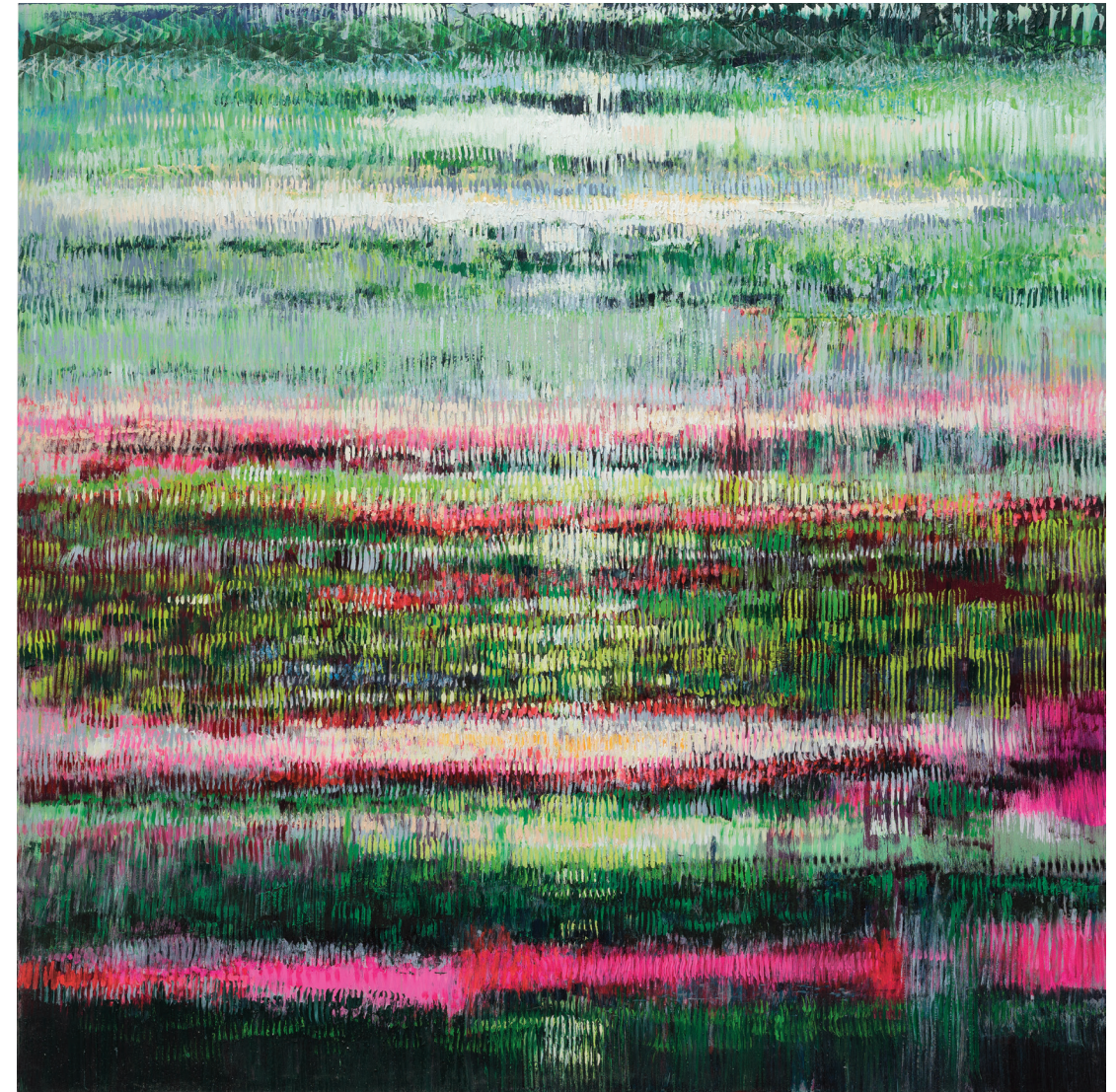
10 LIGHT IN COLOUR 2 | acrylic and oil on metal | 39 x 39 in / 100 x 100 cm



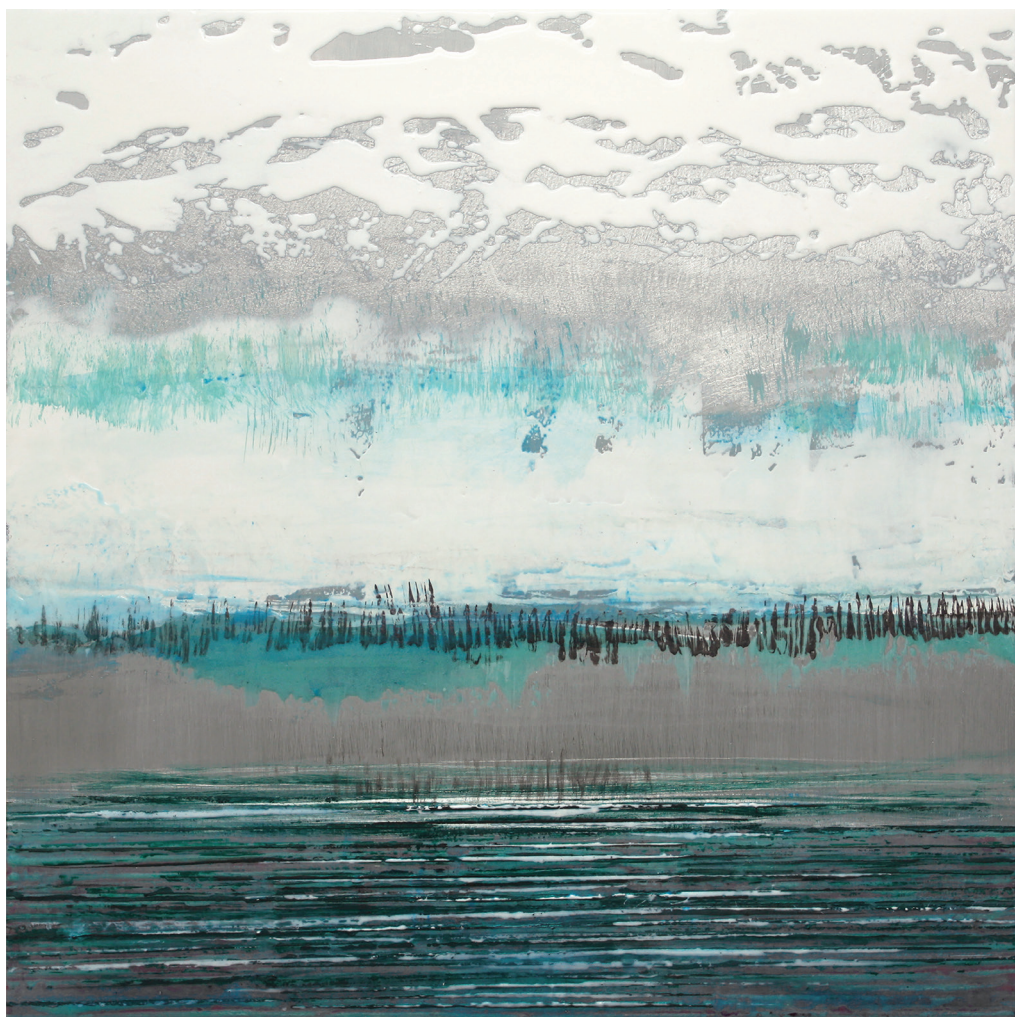
11 ROSÉ SKY | acrylic and oil on metal | 39 x 39 in / 100 x 100 cm



12 LIGHT IN COLOUR 4 | acrylic and oil on metal | 39 x 39 in / 100 x 100 cm



13 LIGHT IN COLOUR 1 | acrylic and oil on metal | 39 x 39 in / 100 x 100 cm

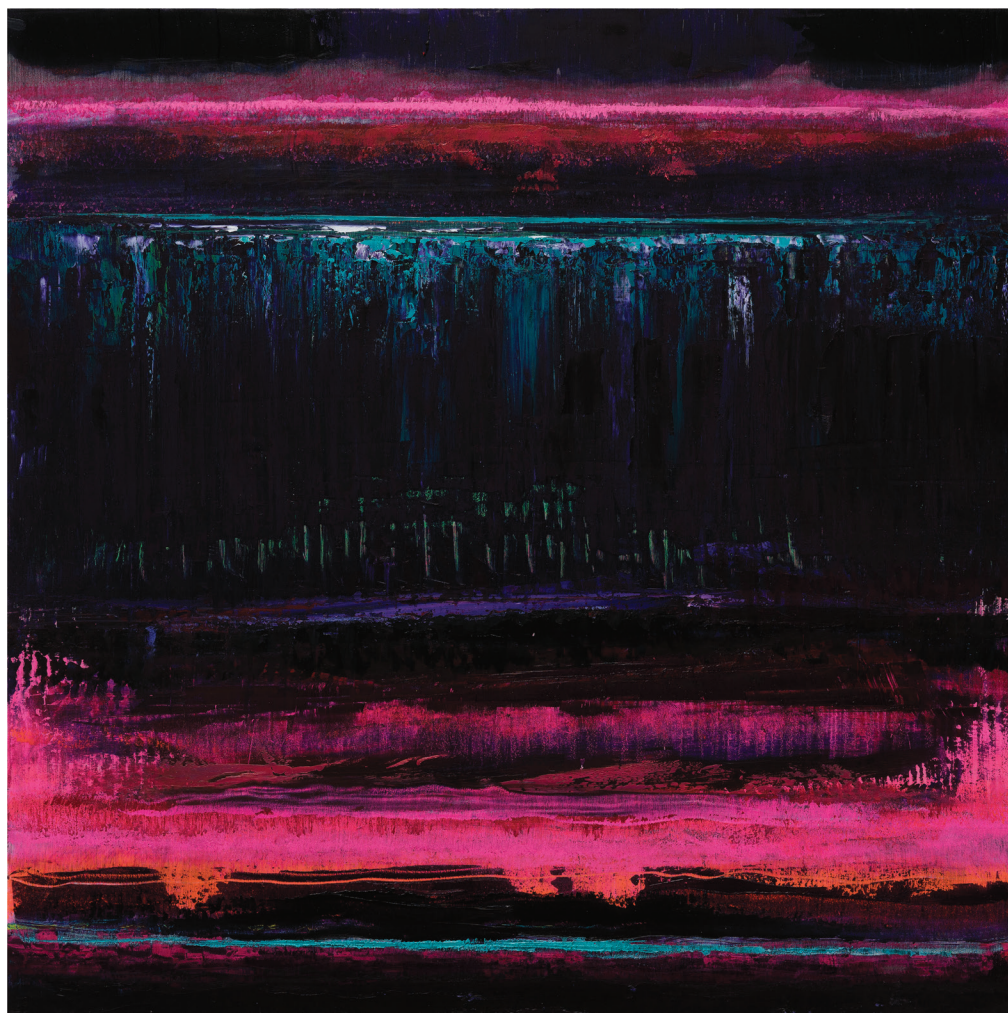




15 NORTHERN FIELD 3 | acrylic and oil on metal | 28 x 28 in / 70 x 70 cm



16 NORTHERN FIELD 4 | acrylic and oil on metal | 28 x 28 in / 70 x 70 cm



17 MYSTERIOUS LIGHT 1 | acrylic and oil on metal | 28 x 28 in / 70 x 70 cm



18 NORTHERN FIELD I | acrylic and oil on metal | 28 x 28 in / 70 x 70 cm

b. 1957, Lake of Constance

EDUCATION

| | |
|---------|--|
| 1992–93 | Postgraduate Studies in Interdisciplinary Media at Academy of Fine Art, Stuttgart, Germany |
| 1981–87 | State Academy of Fine Arts in Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 1980–81 | Independent College of Fine Art in Stuttgart, Germany |

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2017 | Member artist federation Baden Württemberg,Germany |
| 2006 | Project funding of the Federal Cultural Foundation Germany |
| 2004 | Co-Founder Exhibition Platform “Neuer Kunstraum Karlsruhe” |
| 1998 | Travel Grant for the project, “Heimat” to Northern Europe |
| 1988–89 | Grant from the Arts Foundation of Baden-Württemberg |
| 1986 | Project Grant from the Art Fund Bonn |

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

| | |
|------|--|
| 2019 | Galerie Cyprian Brenner, Art Karlsruhe |
| 2018 | Gallery P13, Himmlicht im Purpurrot, Germany Art Toronto, Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Canada |
| 2017 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Canada Museum im Kleihues-Bau, Stuttgart / Kornwestheim Galerie Mollwo, Basel One artist show, Art Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 2016 | Galerie Cyprian Brenner, Schwäbisch Hall One artist show, Art Karlsruhe, Germany Galerie P13, Heidelberg Galerie Reitz, Köln, |
| 2015 | Galerie Arthea, Mannheim, |
| 2014 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Canada One artist show, Art Karlsruhe, Germany Galerie Schrade, Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 2013 | Galerie P13, Heidelberg, Germany Galerie Rigassi, Bern, Switzerland Galerie Wesner, Konstanz, Germany One artist show, Art Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 2012 | Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Canada |
| 2011 | Galerie Mollwo, Basel/Riehen, Switzerland |
| 2010 | Galerie Peerlings, Krefeld, Germany Galerie Alfred Knecht, Karlsruhe, Germany Galerie P13, Heidelberg, Germany |
| 2009 | Galerie Wesner, Konstanz, Germany Galerie Fetzer, Sontheim an der Brenz, Germany |
| 2008 | Galerie Mollwo, Basel/Riehen, Switzerland |
| 2007 | Galerie Königsblau, Stuttgart, Germany |
| 2006 | Südwest Galerie, Aalen, Germany |

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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|---------|---|
| 2018 | Galerie Reitz, Affordable Art Fair Hamburg Galerie Reitz, ...und das Blau vom Himmel Galerie Cyprian Brenner,...und das Blau vom Himmel Color Crosslink, Junge Kunsthalle Karlsruhe Galerie Reitz, Kölner Liste Galerie Cyprian Brenner, Art Karlsruhe |
| 2017 | Kunst Zürich, Kölner Liste, ART Salzburg, ART DÜSSELDORF |
| 2016 | ART.FAIR Köln, Art Toronto, Kunst Zürich , Affordable Art Fair Hamburg |
| 2015 | art Karlsruhe, ART.FAIR Köln, Art Toronto, Kunst Zürich , Affordable Art Fair Hamburg The Sylvia Wald & Kim Art Gallery, New York |
| 2014 | Art Toronto, Odon Wagner Gallery Toronto, Canada Kunst Oberschwaben 20th Century, Germany ART FAIR Cologne, Cologne, Germany Kunst Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland Galerie Schrade, Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 2013 | Galerie P13, Heidelberg, Germany Kunst Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland Art Karlsruhe, Germany |
| 2012–13 | Art Toronto, Odon Wagner Gallery, Toronto, Canada |
| 2011 | Galerie Mollwo, Basel/Riehen, Switzerland |
| 2010 | Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie Karlsruhe, Germany Galerie Mollwo, Basel/Riehen, Switzerland Galerie Schindel, Freiburg, Germany |
| 2006 | Galerie Mollwo, Basel/Riehen, Switzerland |
| 2005 | Galerie Mariette Haas, Ingolstadt, Germany |
| 2003 | Galerie Epikur, Wuppertal, Germany |

CREDITS

| | |
|------------|---|
| CURATORIAL | Odon Wagner, Rafael Wagner, Meghan O’Callaghan, Krista Bell |
| DESIGN | Molly Darville, Meghan O’Callaghan, Krista Bell |
| PRINTING | Renaissance Printing |

For all works in exhibition, please visit odonwagnergallery.com

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