

Sean Scully paintings & watercolors.

Chazen Museum of Art [Madison, Wisconsin]: Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011

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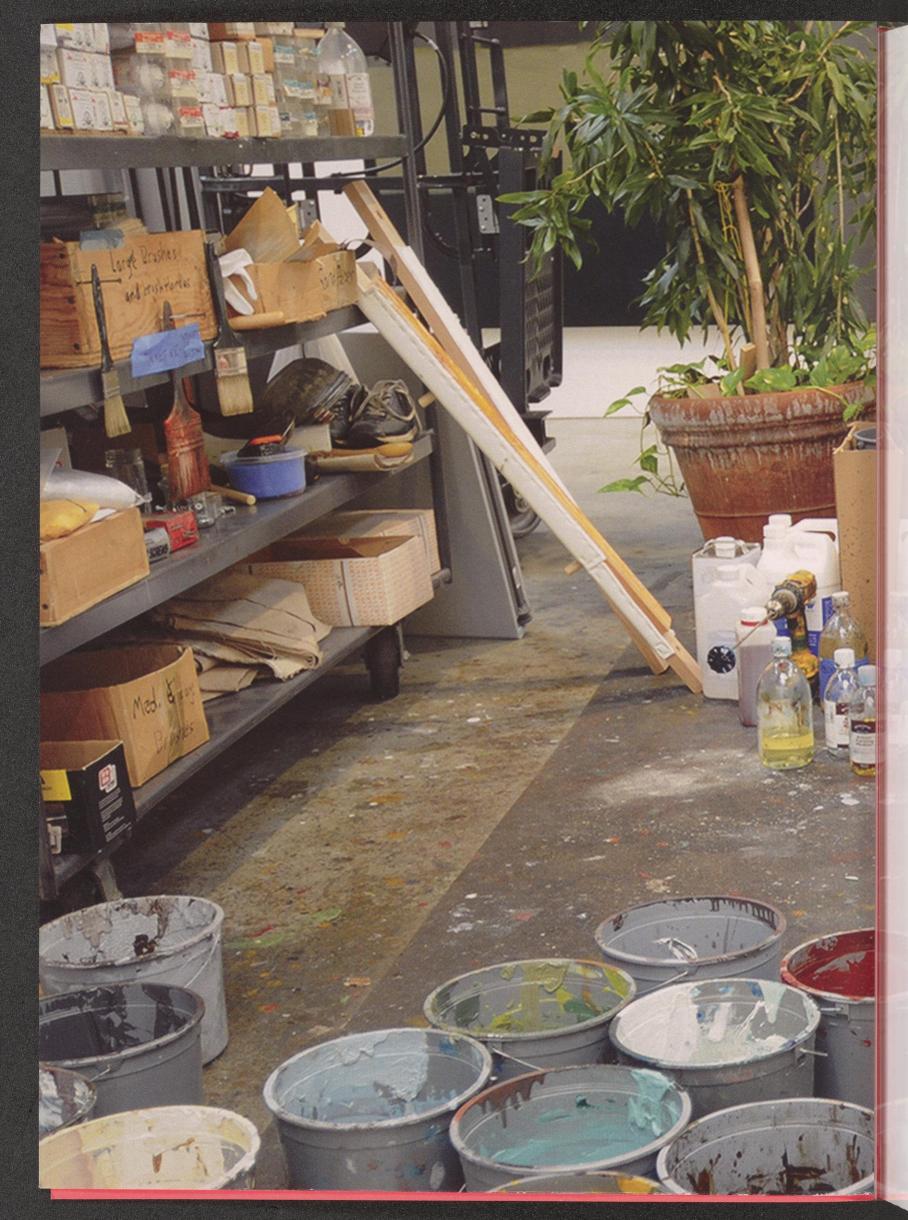
SEAN



PAINTINGS

50

WATERCOLORS



SEAN

PAINTINGS

&

WATERCOLORS



SEAN

SCULLY

PAINTINGS

&

WATERCOLORS

WITH AN ESSAY BY KELLY GROVIER

CHAZEN MUSEUM OF ART / 2011

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

This book is published on the occasion of the exhibition SEAN SCULLY PAINTINGS AND WATERCOLORS held at the Chazen Museum of Art, University of Wisconsin–Madison OCTOBER 22, 2011–JANUARY 15, 2012

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SMOKING MIRRORS: THE ART OF SEAN SCULLY © Kelly Grovier

Images Courtesy of Neo Neo Inc., New York, © Sean Scully

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FOREWORD

RUSSELL PANCZENKO

3 OIL PAINTINGS

15

SMOKING MIRRORS

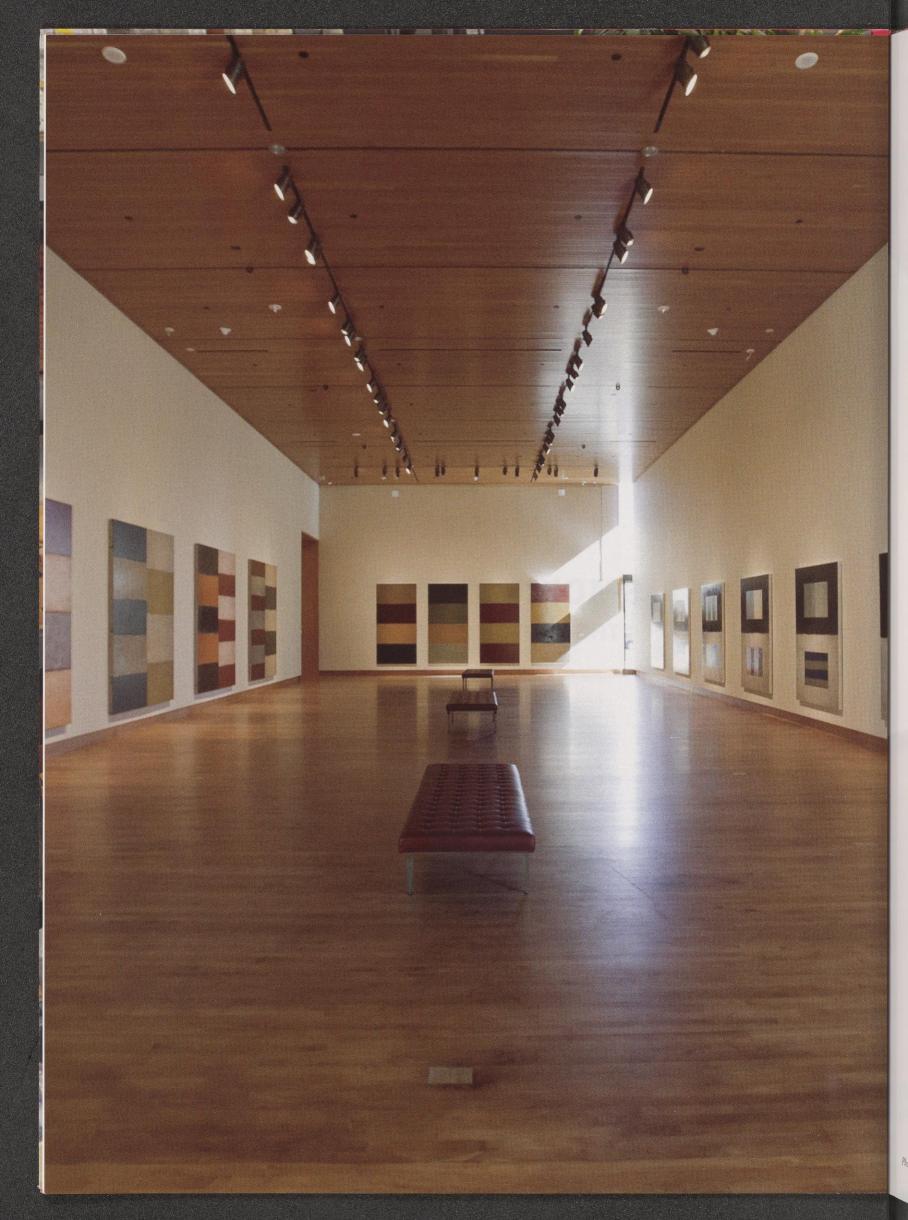
THE ART OF SEAN SCULLY

BY KELLY GROVIER

23 WATERCOLORS

48

WORKS IN THE EXHIBITION



FORE

WORD

The new Chazen Museum of Art building opened in October 2011. For the first time, the museum has gallery space dedicated to major temporary exhibitions. The 5,000-square-foot Pleasant T. Rowland galleries, named for a major benefactor, have twenty-one-foot walls that are able to accommodate large-scale works of art. We are delighted to inaugurate these galleries with an exhibition of paintings and watercolors by Sean Scully.

The artist himself selected the paintings in this exhibition, graciously offering us some of his most recent work. Arturo Rucci, Scully's studio manager, made the preliminary selection of watercolors and compiled a second list from which the museum was able to choose a number of additional works. The thirty-eight selected watercolors, which date from the 1980s through 2006, come from the artist's personal collection and have never been shown publically. I am very grateful to Sean Scully for his total participation in the planning stages of this project and his generosity in making so many works available to us. The wonderful essay by Kelly Grovier speaks for itself; its insight and sensitivity to Scully's work will become immediately apparent to the reader.

Four Dark Mirrors, a monumental four-panel painting deemed key to the exhibition by the artist, was graciously loaned by the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston.

As a museum director, I very much appreciate the trepidation that they must have felt in lending a painting of such high aesthetic quality and historical importance to our museum. The fact that they did so is a tribute to the high respect that the leaders of the Houston Museum of Art have for Scully's work and for his curatorial vision. A heartfelt thank you to Gwendolyn H. Goffe, interim director of the MFA Houston, and to all affiliated with that institution that helped to make this loan possible.

Thank you again to Arturo Rucci for preparing the works from the studio for shipment to Madison and for providing all the images and information necessary for the production of this catalogue.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the debt of gratitude that I and my wife Paula Panczenko, executive director of Tandem Press, owe to Kimberly Davis of the L.A. Louver Gallery. She kindly introduced us to the artist, encouraging him to exhibit his work in Madison and undertake a residency at Tandem in conjunction with the Chazen exhibition.

My brief interaction with Sean Scully during this past year and a half has reinforced the deep admiration I have always had for his work, and gave me the opportunity to discover his generosity of spirit and wonderful sense of humor. Sean, it has been a pleasure and an honor, thank you.

RUSSELL

PANCZENKO





Four Dark Mirrors 2002/oil on linen/114 x 480 in.







4 Towers

2009 / oil on alu-dibond / 108 x 256.5 in.





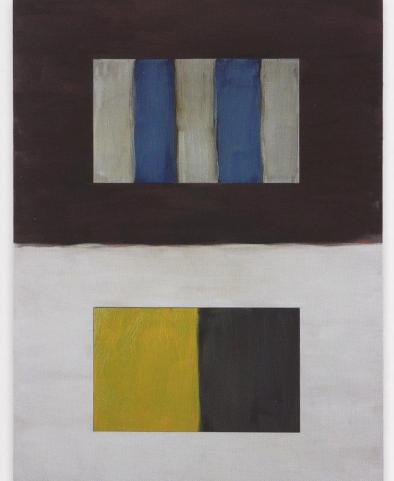


Manhattan Cut Ground 2011 / oil on linen / 110 x 165 in.



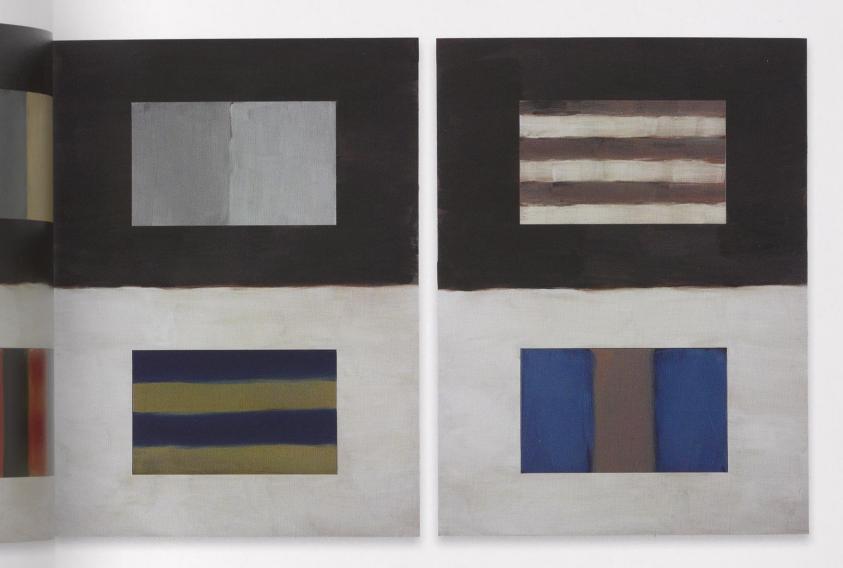
Cut Ground Blue Pink Red 2011 / oil on linen / 28 x 32 in.







2010/oil on aluminum / 84 x 749 in.







SMOKING

MIRRORS

THE ART OF

SEAN

When Sean Scully was a young boy living in London in the 1950s, he loved fireworks and saved his pocket money each year to buy as many as he could-bottle rockets and Roman candles, sparklers and Catherine Wheels-stashing his horde in a huge cardboard box. One November, on bonfire night, a stray spark triggered a chain reaction among the tangle of wicks and gunpowder he had crammed together. Suddenly the boy's box was juddering with rapid bursts of sulphur, phosphorus, and fire-"one went off, which set off another . . . and another . . . exploding like crazy"—staggering around the garden "like a living being," annihilating itself spectacularly from inside; the whole thing gone in seconds. What seemed like a great loss, a tragedy at the time through the eyes of a child, is telling in hindsight.

Sixty years on, the incident serves as a metaphor for the intensity and achievement of Scully's art—of angular shapes ignited unexpectedly from below the surface of his work, of power packed so tightly that any second now it could go.

Since his first solo exhibition in 1973, Scully has built a reputation on repetition—on canvases of congested stripes and abutting blocks of layered color. But beneath these shouldered planks of filthy ochres, slate clays, and scabbing reds stirs an unexpected warmth of vision that aligns Scully's work more to the humid golds of Byzantine icons than to Mark Rothko's vaporous saturations, more to the muscular light of J.M.W. Turner than to the frenetic flinging of Jackson Pollock.

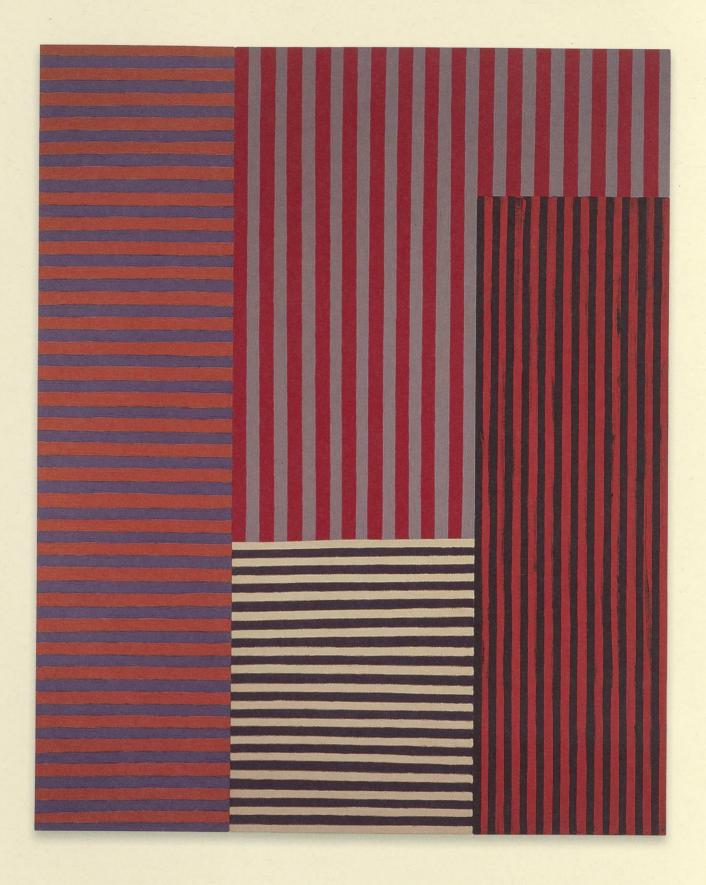
The works summoned for the Chazen Museum's exhibition Sean Scully Paintings and Watercolors turn back the artist's clock nearly thirty years, for a selection of five large oil compositions and three dozen watercolors undertaken between 1982 and the present. But Scully's career-long preoccupation with adjoining lines can be traced back even further, to the early 1970s when, after a stint studying at Harvard University, the Irishborn painter began complicating the cold mathematics of Piet Mondrian and op artists such as Bridget Riley by twisting and stacking their inert grids to create illusions of infinite depth. Then in his late twenties, Scully had installed himself in a shabby artist's garret beside the rumble of London Bridge station, while the tightening mesh of his canvases served symbolically to stem the seepage that a leak in the ceilings above his apartment had opened in his rotting floor. Art had become salvation—a safety net for the soul.

By featuring work from the early 1980s through to paintings finished as recently as spring of 2011, the Chazen has chosen to highlight works from Scully's oeuvre that no longer wrestle overtly with such earlier influences and to celebrate instead what has followed-three decades of the most authentic, original, and influential of contemporary imaginations. The breakthrough, which came in 1981 recalling an earlier trip to Morocco, is famously embodied in two colossal oils from the era-Backs and Fronts and Araby (p. 16)—whose disjointed fields of vibrating, perpendicularly packed stripes capture not only the bustle of crowded bazaars but

BY

KELLY

GROVIER



 $\label{eq:Previous page: Previous page: Cut Ground Blue Pink Red \textit{(detail), see p. 9}$

the way one's own body buzzes amid such intensity. *Araby* takes its name from a short story in James Joyce's *Dubliners* and there is a sense in which the novelist's description of adolescent bodies, which played until they "glowed," is subsumed in the rippling of Scully's stripes.

The blurring of boundaries between line and body, where the former swells to become the latter, is no less apparent in the watercolor *Study for Adoration* (p. 24), the earliest work in the Chazen exhibition, which likewise resuscitates, in delicate diaphanous wash, a disused expressionism the artist had begun rehabilitating in *Araby* and *Backs and Fronts*—amplifying in Scully's painting the first hints of a distinctive, abstract visual grammar.

A significant step toward that vocabulary's refinement can be found in a massive oil painting not in the exhibition, The Bather (p. 19)—a reinvention of Matisse's Bathers by the River (1913)—and more intimately in two smaller watercolors executed in the same year which are on display: Mexico Chinapa 12.83 (p. 25) and Mexico 12.23.83 (p. 25). In Matisse's mural-sized oil, four statuesque nudes, chiselled with sharp Cubist edges, stretch like marble columns, canvas-height, against an insinuation of river bank. Also undertaken after a visit to Morocco, Matisse's Bathers reveal a new attitude to the relationship between a figure's size and the picture space it occupies—an attitude that Scully pushes to

an absurd extreme in his homage. In Scully's work, a pun on his own stark "strip" now overwhelms the massive linen in wide vertical navys and ficus greens—trunk-like lines that replace any semblance of real body with pure feeling. To amplify a sense of human weight and depth, Scully has constructed boxy protrusions from the canvas's surface, investing the work with an air of carpentry and craftsmanship, of things concealed in built cupboards.

That same sense of impending compositional swell, as though some force from below the paint were at any moment about to burst through, can be felt in Mexico Chinapa 12.83 and Mexico 12.23.83, whose baked hues and high-desert reds were inspired by formative trips south of the U.S. border. The nudged right edge of the latter work, awkwardly elbowing the margin, and the bulging central furrow of the former rescue these pieces from any stasis into which the traditional stripe might be inclined to settle. Where op art frequently relies on ophthalmological tricks of the line, Scully's stripe has begun to plumb something deeper in the mind's eye, something more emotional, mystical a line that goes beyond line. Though he is best-known for his industrial-sized oils that sprawl like blueprints of lost cathedrals across museum walls throughout the world, the artist's yearning after a transcendence of bodily line is suited to the ghostly translucence of the more intimate watercolors that he will continue to create alongside the larger canvases throughout his career.

A sense of embedded architecture and hidden compartments, of paintings inviting access to spaces that they simultaneously obstruct, becomes crucial in the work produced after Scully settled in New York (and became an American citizen) in the mid 1980s. Many of the most affecting pieces from this phase of his

career involve removable insertions, canvases within canvases, leaving the observer with the feeling of standing before a sealed door or window from which only echoes of paint, whispering around the edges, suggest the drama unfolding inside. In the watercolor 2.24.88 #1 (p. 30) small squares of kitty-corner red-and-white stripes, inserted into a pair of facing gold-and-green layered portraits, communicate across the paper's white divide. The effect is strangely reflective, mirroring. Pulsing back and forth, the inserts assume a synchronized frequency in the foreign substance into which they have been submerged—like light filtering through a flagstone pond, as sinking coins glitter in the water around them.

By the mid-1990s, Scully was dividing his time between New York and the workshop he had established in Barcelona, and Catalunyan light begins to seep deep into his imagination and painting. To appreciate the evanescence, one needs merely to compare the earthy quadrate puzzle of 8.29.89 (p. 32), undertaken before the move—its slate grays and brooding corrugated blues squatting bleakly on the wall—with the warmth of Scully's sun-soaked sandstone stripes in the years following the shift. It is tempting to resituate Scully in the context of twentiethcentury Catalan art—to project a whimsicality on to the continued repetition of stripes that might make the work sit more comfortably alongside the exuberance of Joan Miró's balletic amoebae or Antonio Gaudi's melting terraces.

But the spare foundations of Scully's art are in truth closer to the simplicity of medieval Catalan symbolism than they are to twentieth-century surrealism. In one of the artist's most powerful full-scale works, the large oil painting Uriel (p. 20), nine horizontal stripes of the Senyera—the gold-and-red bands of the coat of arms of the crown of Aragon, on which the Catalan flag is based-have been transformed into an insert of honeyed strips surrounded by wide blocks of black and white. That same sense of jarring tonal intervention, of territories in relentless tension, is replicated movingly in a smaller watercolor from the same year selected for display in the present exhibition, 3.27.97 (p. 40). With its raked insistence on uncompromising horizontality, unusual in Scully's work, 3.27.97 reiterates line after watery line in the troubled dirt-borders upon borders erasing and re-inscribing borders-offering itself as one of the more unsettling examples in the show of the struggle for harmony, of the artist trying to live up to his assertion that "art is the opposite of war." Once providing the coordinates of personal salvation, the latitudes and longitudes of Scully's work re-emerge as soulful maps of strange and undiscovered countries.

The earliest of the oil works on display is a quartet of large canvases collectively entitled Four Dark Mirrors (pp. 4-5). Each constituent panel is split lengthwise to create a pair of parallel runners or facing vertical fields of clashing horizontal stripes. As a significant subgenre of Scully's work, mirrors are first discernible as far back as 1983, and while one's instinct is to read into the collision of different widths and colors a playful philosophical statement on the very enterprise of creative imitation of the physical world, a more intriguing alternative niggles from the atlas of the painter's biography. The coloration of Four Dark Mirrors is most conspicuously in accord with the watercolor discussed above, Mexico 12.23.83, undertaken the same year as Scully's first so-called mirror. All three works excavate dense obsidian blacks and warm desert golds that glint mysteriously beside drenched rectangular rags of coagulating red. The scheme is strikingly similar to depictions of an extraordinary incarnation of "mirror" that Scully may well have encountered in his excursions to Mexico— Tezcatlipoca, the central deity in the ancient Aztec religion, whose name is commonly translated as "Smoking Mirror." In honor of Tezcatlipoca (who was typically depicted in folk art with gold and black stripes across his face), each year an Aztec man was chosen to marry four brides before ascending the steep Templo Mayor, where he was sacrificed by priests and his body was eaten. Seen in this brutally mystical context, the four stark marriages of Scully's strata are less helpfully compared to

reflective cosmetic surfaces, and they begin to conjure instead the endlessly eroding steps to Smoking Mirror's legendary sacrificial temple in Tenochtitlan, as the painter's work aspires to something beyond the inert mimesis of conventional representationalism to a primitive alchemy capable of transforming the perishable substances of this world into the eternal.

The stakes are just as high in the only other four-panel composition on display in the exhibition, 4 Towers (pp. 6-7). The work's title feels at once mythic and architectural, as if alluding to the impenetrable perpendicularity of the medieval Bunratty Castle, whose four broad stone towers still stand formidably in the artist's native Ireland, or to the two pairs of thinning spires that rise above the Nativity façade of Gaudi's fragmented Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona—the only four towers of a projected twelve to be completed before the death of the Catalan architect. Scully's wide totems, each stacking four geometrically precise blocks of rich uninterrupted color (recalling the commercial color chart phases of Ellsworth Kelly or Gerhard Richter), perfect a process—oil on aluminium that the artist first experimented with in the mid-1990s with a series of "floating" works, which he affixed to the wall at jutting right angles along each panel's side. Unlike canvas, aluminium resists the easy respiration of color, the breathing

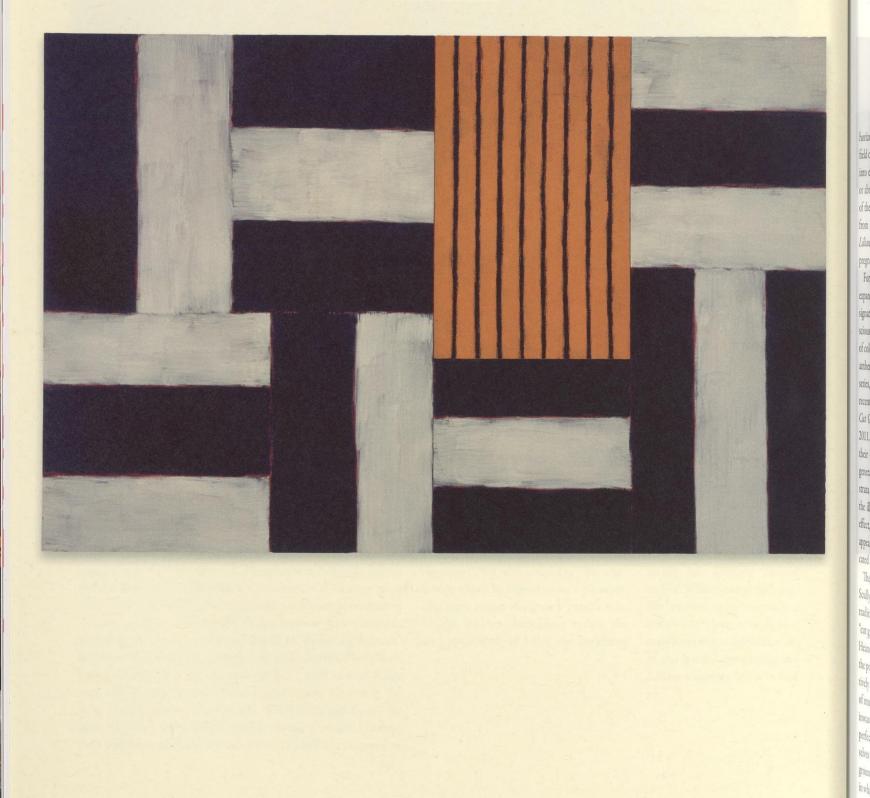
between layers of paint—its rigidity serving only to buttress the sense of sturdy aesthetic carpentry. The metallic opacity of the style conducts an entirely different energy through these works, converting them, materially, into panes that reflect back far more than they absorb, like stained glass windows in an abandoned cathedral when a cloud-scarfed moon has turned the sky outside to stone.

Scully returns to the style in the moving, multi-panel Liliane (pp. 10-13), a series of eight pieces dedicated to his wife, the Swiss-born artist Liliane Tomasko. Tomasko is a painter whose work is frequently devoted to capturing the complex textures, intimate and mysterious, of folded textiles-stacked rugs and the crumpled patterns of carpets-and one senses at times a poignant dialogue between her work and his. It is as though, by choosing the less yielding substrate of aluminium, rather than canvas or linen, for a series dedicated to an artist fascinated by fabric, Scully has lovingly yielded to her. Where the artist's earlier mirrors split themselves lengthwise along a seam that runs from top to bottom, each of the works comprising the Liliane sequence is cut in half



in the series in

19



Uriel 1997/

20

horizontally through the middle—the top halves dominated by a field of black, the bottom by fields of burnished white. Embedded into each half of each panel are parallelograms of colored stripes or abutting blocks, amplifying the endlessly reversible reflexivity of the composition, creating what feel like curious playing cards from another world. Seen sequentially, the constituent works of *Liliane* seem like varying moods of conjoined souls, each panel pregnant with the next.

For the past decade, Scully has been working on a series of expansive works collectively entitled Wall of Light. Though the signature stripe survives in these later pieces, the surface consciousness of paint seems more willing to admit underlying layers of color. The result is works of dense translucence, like blocks of amber elbowing bricks of peat. An allied genre is the Cut Ground series, going since 2006, represented here by the two most recent works in the exhibition-Manhattan Cut Ground and Cut Ground Blue Pink Red (pp. 8 and 9)—both from earlier in 2011. These works continue to move shapes horizontally across their cramped surfaces, but their power, as with Wall of Light generally, builds geologically from below, from the compressed strata of texture and color. In a sense, the artist has returned to the illusion of depth that fascinated his earliest pieces. But the effect, now, is achieved not through optical tricks but rather an appeal to something emotionally grounded; to a more sophisticated absorption of artistic indebtedness.

The sense of voices buried beneath the complicated turf of Scully's work sends one riffling through the pages of his native tradition for cultural companions. Indeed, his own rich rubric of "cut ground" feels uncannily compatible with the title of Seamus Heaney's selected writings, *Opened Ground*, as fragments from the poet's unsettling bog poem "Grauballe Man" squeeze suggestively through the grout of Scully's puzzled earth: "under a glisten of mud . . . tanned and toughened. / The cured wound / opens inwards to a dark / elderberry place . . . his opaque repose . . . perfected in memory." Here the poet and the painter find themselves as unexpected Resurrection Men, heeling in the grubby ground of their extraordinary work in order to clear a sacred place in which the living and the dead can commune.

The peat bogs of Jutland, Denmark, where the crumpled remains of the Grauballe Man were discovered in 1952-a victim of Iron Age sacrifice some twenty-three centuries earliermay seem a sodden terrain at furthest possible remove from the contemporary urban landscape summoned by a title such as Manhattan Cut Ground. And yet to resist such connections is to risk missing a significant dimension of both Scully's and Heaney's achievement. For both, artistic enunciation is fundamentally palimpsestic, archaeological, involving at once an excavation of material and immaterial strata and an endless covering over of the raw opened ground. Heaney paints with the tragic syllables of a nation's excruciating history, echoing across centuries to a pre-Christian era, while for Scully the poetry disinters itself slowly from beneath a jigsaw of archetypal slabs the size of gravestones, the last vestiges of whose outmoded epitaphssuperstitious, sectarian-have

long-since been erased. The "Manhattan" of Scully's title no more restricts the real resonance of these troubled and troubling plots ("dark," "elderberry," and "opaque") to a borough of New York City than Heaney's own titles "Tollund Man" or "Grauballe Man" delimit the meaning of his poems to the drudge and fossick of Danish wetlands.

In the ever-unfolding narrative of art history, where does Sean Scully fit? Critics have seized on the "all-over" aspect of his work in a bid to declare him heir to Jackson Pollock or Helen Frankenthaler, but in the contemplative solidity of pieces such as Cut Ground Blue Pink Red we see instead an artist who harks back to an older tradition of painters who found substance in light and ghostliness in the earth. The planks of pink in this singularly spiritual work could have been prised loose from the triptychs of Fra Angelico, while the shingles of unreal blue feel as if they have been scraped fresh from the frescoes of Giotto. In the center of the work, a block of earth-tone tan shoulders almost self-consciously among these rich adorational hues, unmatched elsewhere in the work, as though a small contemplative Rembrandt interior—empty, candlelit had been mysteriously hung in a gallery reserved for Renaissance annunciations and nativities. For me, this is where the soul of the artist resides, opening a raw and undoctrinal altar at the heart of an endlessly accumulating history. As Sean Scully moves forward he also moves back, and the Chazen Museum's exhibition allows us an exceptional opportunity to appreciate the power the painter still packs into his boxes.

(25)



Study for Adoration

/ watercolor on paper / 23.1×30.6 in.





Mexico Chinapa 12.83 1983 / watercolor on paper / 9 x 12 in.

Mexico 12.23.83 1983 / watercolor on paper / 12 x 9 in.



3.24.85 #2

/ watercolor and graphite on paper / 10 x 14 in.





9.1.86

10.9.87

1986 / watercolor on paper / 14×10 in. 1987 / watercolor on paper / 12×16 in.



10.22.87

/ watercolor on paper / 11 x 16 in.





2.24.88 #1

1988/watercolor on paper/11 x 15 in.



Mexico 4.5.88 1988/watercolor on paper/12 x 16 in.





Mexico 4.6.88

8.29.89

1988/watercolor on paper / 12x 16 in. 1989/watercolor on paper / 22.4x 30.1 in.



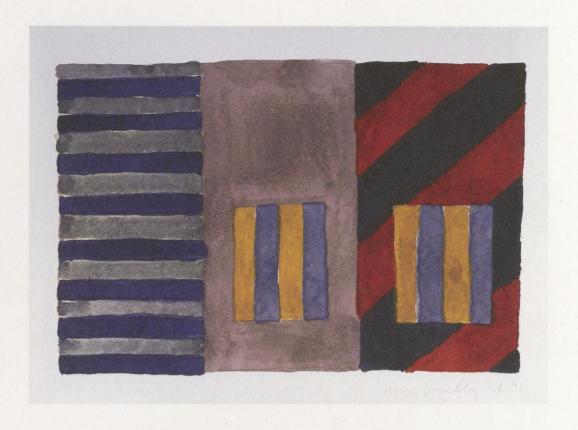


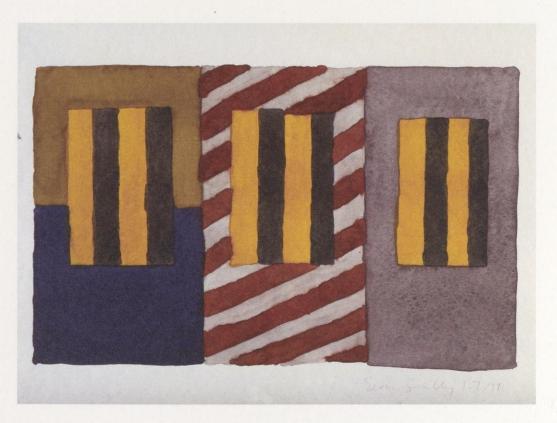
9.9.89

1989/watercolor on paper/22.6 x 30.2 in.

Zihuatenejo 2.26.90

1990/watercolor on paper/14.1 x 20 in.





1.6.91

1991/watercolor on paper / 10×14 in.

1.7.91

1991 / watercolor on paper / 10 x 14 in.

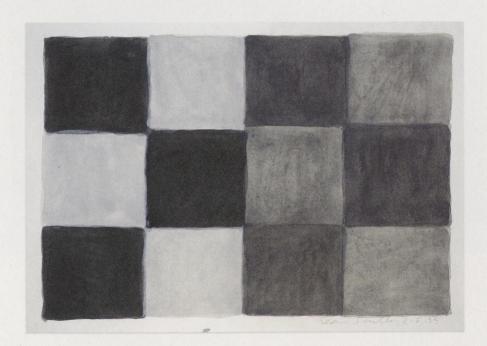


5.20.911991/watercolor on paper/14 x 10 in.



7.13.921992/watercolor on paper/14 x 10 in.





9.21.93

2.5.95

1993/watercolor on paper $/15 \times 18$ in. 1995/watercolor on paper $/13.25 \times 18.75$ in.



München 7.2.96 1996/watercolor on paper/17 x 15 in.



München 10.2.96 1996 / watercolor on paper / 17 x 15 in.



3.27.97

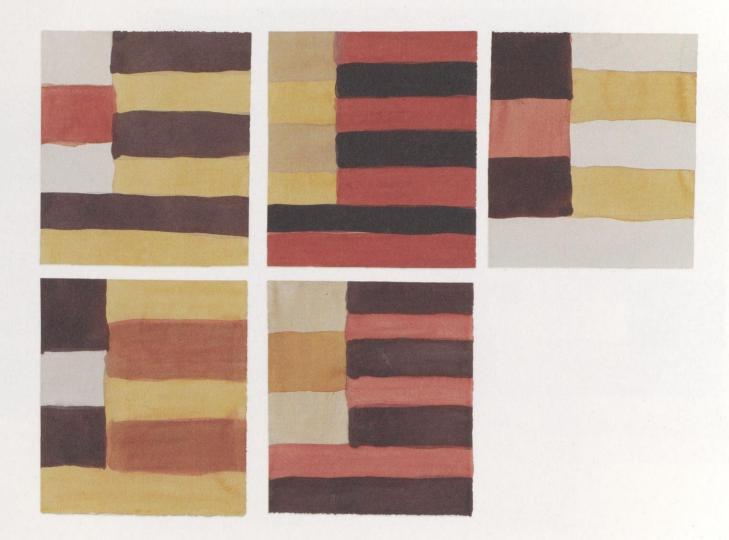
1997/watercolor on paper / 16×12.5 in.





3.5.981998/watercolor on paper/18 x 15 in.

Wall of Light 6.21.98 1998/watercolor on paper / 15 x 17.75 in.



Enter Five



3.5.99

 $1999 / watercolor \, on \, paper / \, 17.75 \, x \, 15 \, in.$



3.6.991999/watercolor on paper/15.5 x 18 in.





Red Robe 1.9.05 2005/watercolor on paper/30 x 22 in.



Chelsea Robe 3.3.05 2005/watercolor on paper / 30×22.5 in.





Ookbar I 6.7.06

2006/watercolor on paper / 22.5 x 30 in.

Ookbar II 6.8.06

2006/watercolor on paper / 22.5 x 30 in.

GREEN - BLUE Seanfaulty oct.31.06.



Green-Blue Oct. 31.06

2006 / watercolor on paper / 30×22.5 in.

Works in the Exhibition

All works @ Sean Scully / All works in private collections, unless otherwise noted / Images Courtesy of Neo Neo Inc., New York, @ Sean Scully



Four Dark Mirrors

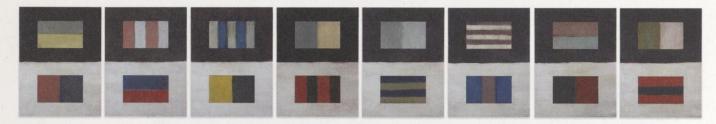
2002 / oil on linen / 114 x 480 in.

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum purchase with funds provided by the Caroline Wiess Law Accessions Endowment Fund and gift of the artist



4 Towers

2009 / oil on alu-dibond 108 x 256.5 in.



Liliane

2010 / oil on aluminum / 84 x 749 in.



Manhattan Cut Ground

2011 / oil on linen 110 x 165 in.



Cut Ground Blue Pink Red

2011 / oil on linen / 28 x 32 in.

Chazen Museum of Art, Museum Fund Purchase



Study for Adoration

1982 / watercolor on paper 23.1 x 30.6 in.



Mexico Chinapa 12.83

1983 / watercolor on paper 9 x 12 in.



Mexico 12.23.83

1983 / watercolor on paper 12 x 9 in.



3.24.85 #2

1985 / watercolor and graphite on paper / 10×14 in.



9.1.86

1986 / watercolor on paper 14 x 10 in.



10.9.87

1987/watercolor on paper 12 x 16 in.

2006/10



10.22.87

1988 / watercolor on paper 11 x 16 in.



2.24.88

1988/watercolor on paper 12 x 18 in.



2.24.88 #1

1988/watercolor on paper 11 x 15 in.



Mexico 4.5.88

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Mexico 4.6.88 1988 / watercolor on paper 12 x 16 in.



8.29.89 1989 / watercolor on paper 22.4 x 30.1 in.



9.9.89 1989 / watercolor on paper 22.6 x 30.2 in.



Zihuatenejo 2.26.90 1990 / watercolor on paper 14.1 x 20 in.



1.6.911991 / watercolor on paper
10 x 14 in.



1.7.911991 / watercolor on paper
10 x 14 in.



5.20.911991/watercolor on paper
14 x 10 in.



7.13.921992 / watercolor on paper
14 x 10 in.



9.21.931993 / watercolor on paper
15 x 18 in.



2.5.951995 / watercolor on paper
13.25 x 18.75 in.



München 7.2.96 1996 / watercolor on paper 17 x 15 in.



München 10.2.96 1996 / watercolor on paper 17 x 15 in.



3.27.97 1997/watercolor on paper 16 x 12.5 in.



3.5.981998 / watercolor on paper
18 x 15 in.



Wall of Light 6.21.98 1998 / watercolor on paper 15 x 17.75 in.



Enter Five
1998–99 / watercolor on paper
each 8 x 7 in.



3.5.99 2006 / watercolor on paper 17.75 x 15 in.



3.6.99 1999 / watercolor on paper 15.5 x 18 in.



4.10.991999 / watercolor on paper
15 x 18 in.



Red Robe 1.9.05 2005 / watercolor on paper 30 x 22 in.



Chelsea Robe 3.3.05 2005 / watercolor on paper 30 x 22.5 in.



Ookbar I 6.7.06 2006/watercolor on paper 22.5 x 30 in.

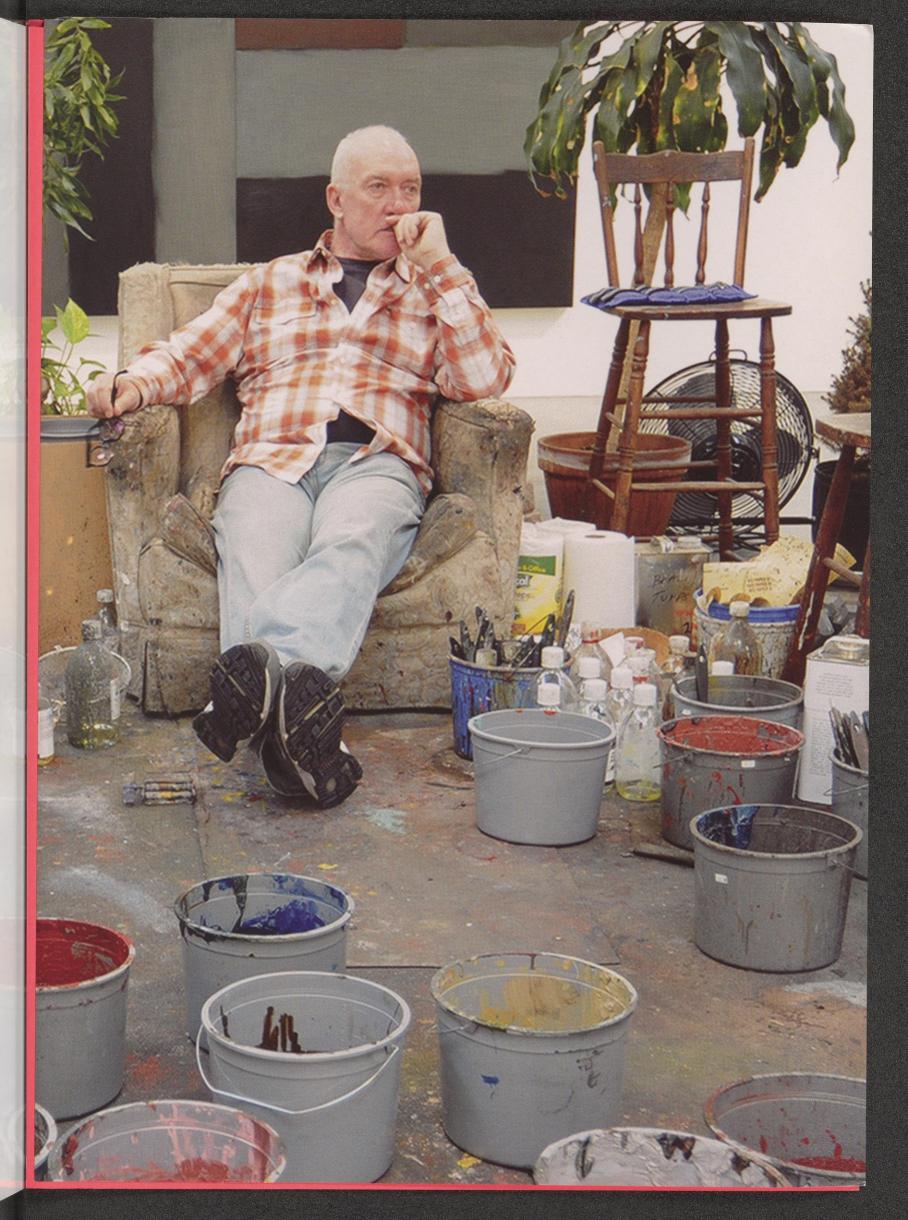


Ookbar II 6.8.06 2006 / watercolor on paper 22.5 x 30 in.



Green-Blue Oct. 31.06 2006 / watercolor on paper 30×22.5 in.







"By featuring work from the early 1980s through to paintings finished as recently as spring of this year, Chazen has chosen to highlight works from Scully's oeuvre that no longer wrestle overtly with such earlier influences and to celebrate instead what has followed—three decades of the most authentic, original, and influential of contemporary imaginations."

- Kelly Grovier, in "Smoking Mirrors: The Art of Sean Scully"

