



JanKossen Contemporary · haltingerstrasse 101 · ch 4057 · basel · switzerland ·
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Illuminated Paintings to Fill Windows of New York Public Library Six-Month Run, Exposing the “Secret Life” of Paint, Expected to be Most Viewed Painting Exhibition in the World.

(New York) “Peter Bynum: Illuminated Paint” opens August 4, 2014 in the windows of the New York Public Library’s Mid-Manhattan building on 5th Avenue at 40th Street. The large, illuminated paintings on glass will be lit up 24 hours a day, and are projected to be seen by roughly 50,000 people each day (nine million total) during the six-month exhibition.

The paintings are 3D objects that merge light with paint’s primal energy and reveal for the first time its innate exploratory genius, evocative of the life-force found in nervous systems and ecosystems throughout nature. Floating on layers of glass, biomorphic forms spread, pool, and flow tendrill-like from spines and centers, swimming through light and space. This “secret life” of paint -- its internal veining, the natural branch-like architecture -- is evocative of trees and rivers, capillaries and synapses -- the purposeful fluidity of existence. The paintings - 4ft. x 8 ft. and on multiple layers of glass -- glow with cosmic energy and ecstatic beauty.

To reveal paint’s complex intelligence, Bynum devised an innovative method of pressuring paint between panes of tempered glass, which he then layers through a precise bracketing system, and backlights with LED-powered screens. “We think of paint as a dumb material waiting to be brought to life by an artist,” says Bynum. “But with minimal help from an artist, paint is capable of being its own protagonist in its own drama, creating a vast network of veins and capillaries, limbs and branches -- an interconnected ecosystem that’s as complex as any organism, language, or network of ideas in the human brain.” Art historian and former Neuberger Museum curator Dede Young says, “Peter Bynum has invented a new way of painting with light, and pushed the language of painting into a new place. It changes the conversation.”

These lush poetic works unite paint, science and technology to expand the territory available to painting, and advance our contemplation of the rhythms and interconnectedness of all life. On a metaphysical level, they resemble the way history, language, ideology and memory function - with many layers of discourse and complex patterns of thought.



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Bynum, 58, lives and works in New York's Hudson River Valley. He has previously shown at the Rome Museum of Contemporary Art, the Museum of Arts & Design in New York, and a recent solo exhibition at JanKossen Contemporary in Basel, Switzerland, among other galleries and museums. His work is in over 50 private collections in the U.S., Europe and Latin America. The exhibition is curated by Arezoo Moseni.

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