

THE ART NEWSPAPER

New galleries in New York

Art spaces open in Chelsea and the Upper East Side

By Cristina Ruiz and Julia Halperin. From *Frieze New York* daily edition
Published online: 08 May 2014



Yves Klein creates a "Fire Painting" in 1962. Photo: © Louis Frederic

Skarstedt pairs Warhol's urine paintings with Klein's blowtorch canvases

In the late 1970s, Andy Warhol experimented with the catalytic reaction of urine and metallic paints. By urinating directly onto canvas, in a gesture reminiscent of the Abstract Expressionists who had dominated the New York scene during Warhol's early career, he created his first abstract paintings in brilliant golds and acidic greens—a group of works entitled "Oxidations". Almost two decades earlier, in France, Yves Klein had used a blowtorch to burn abstracted forms onto receiving paper for his "Fire Paintings".

Now the dealer Per Skarstedt is displaying these two groups of work alongside each other for the first time, in a new, 6,000 sq. ft gallery in Chelsea that opens on Thursday. "Both artists used the elements to create these works," he says, adding that Warhol "had almost certainly seen" the Frenchman's pieces. "He mimicked the scale and composition of canvases by Klein," Skarstedt says.

The new gallery is the dealer's third: in October 2012, he added a space in London's Mayfair to his uptown gallery on East 79th Street. Although most New York dealers with spaces in Chelsea and on the Upper East Side use the former for one-person shows and the latter for curated art-historical exhibitions, Skarstedt is reversing that trend: new paintings by Lucien Smith, who turns 25 this year, comprise the next display in the dealer's uptown space (15 May-27 June). "We thought we'd shake things up a little bit. It's more fun that way," Skarstedt says, adding that, in the future, his artists will be able to choose which of the two spaces they would prefer to show in. The new space in Chelsea has been renovated by the gallery world's architect of choice, Annabelle Selldorf, who has incorporated vast skylights into the central space.