

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA MUNROE
fine art

67 E 80TH STREET #2 NEW YORK NY 10075
917.900.6661 victoriamunroefineart.com

CHRISTOPHER HEWAT: Square Dance
painted wood constructions
April 3 - May 18, 2024

On view April 3 through May 18, 2024, Victoria Munroe Fine Art is delighted to present *Square Dance*, an exhibition of painted wall constructions by Christopher Hewat. Recognized for memorable installations in wood and brass since the 1980's, Hewat's new work reimagines painted sculpture projected from the wall. Positioning rectangular blocks of color dancing on an architectural stage *Square Dance* fuses painterly and sculptural attributes.

Hewat's simple components are slender lengths of hardwood assembled at right angles with mortise-and-tenon joints, and small, painted wood squares. Expressionist brushstrokes enliven their flat surfaces. Hewat's Modernist hues, evoking the blue of Matisse, the browns of Morandi, Manet's peony and Calder's orange, energize the intimate sculptures. The work hints at Mondrian's experiments with color and symmetry. Here, however, Hewat releases his colors to act out their own inherited references. In combining these elements, Hewat has invented a dynamic grammar of delicate, elegant arrangements.

Hewat's first one-person exhibition at Victoria Munroe Fine Art was in New York City in 1984. William Lieberman purchased Hewat's largest inlaid wood screen for The Metropolitan Museum of Art and later included him in the show *The 1980's: A New Generation, American Painters and Sculptors*.

In 1987 and forward, Hewat's sculpture was selected for many museum shows including the two-year traveling exhibition *New England Now: Contemporary Art from Six States*. That year he also recreated an early New England cemetery in wood in the gallery's West Broadway space. Titled *Above Ground*, he transformed the gallery into a gated Neo-Classical cemetery with obelisks, pyramids and modern monuments made of stained wood. Among the reviews of Hewat's show is John Russell's October 23, 1987, in the New York Times in which he wrote, "A curious affair... We also note the unflinching elegance and rightness of the ways in which Mr. Hewat gets his materials, real or simulated, to work together."

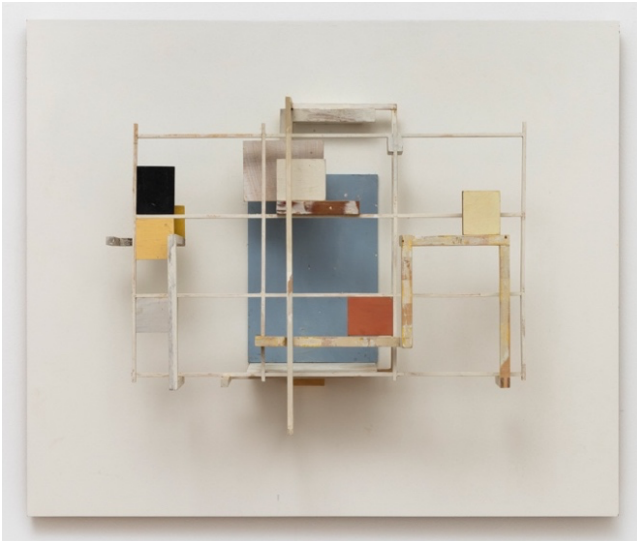
By 2000 Hewat began to solder and cut sheets of brass to realize a miniature library of embossed volumes representing treasured texts from the western canon. In 2007, Hewat participated in *New/Now* at the New Britain Museum of Art. In 2009 his brass books were in a show titled *Russian Prose* at The Drawing Room in East Hampton.

Hewat's work is in the permanent collections of the Addison Gallery of American Art, Princeton University Art Museum, The Brooklyn Museum, among other institutions, as well as private and corporate collections, including those of Graham Gund, David Rockefeller Jr., Cesar Pelli & Associates and Wellington Management. Christopher Hewat lives in Connecticut and works in a repurposed dairy barn.



#89, 2024, wood, paint, 20 ½ x 61 x 9 ½"

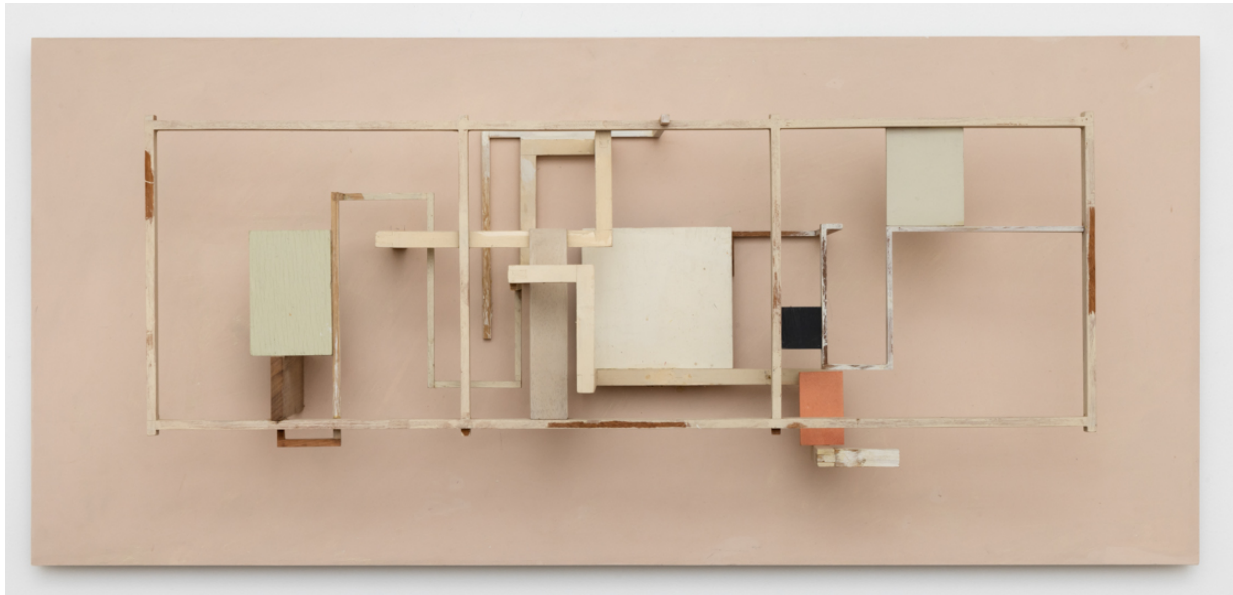
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#86, 2024, wood, paint, 23 3/4 x 28 1/4 x 8 1/4"



#71, 2024, wood, paint, 18 1/2 x 8 1/2 x 3 3/4"



#88, 2024, wood, paint, 20 x 44 1/4 x 9 3/4"

For further information and reproduction-quality images, please contact Margo Hudson
917.900.6661 • margo@victoriamunroefineart.com • www.victoriamunroefineart.com