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Inside Art

By Robin Pogrebin

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“An Artist-Dealer Parting”



“I’m a prisoner of the ’80s,” said the artist Eric Fischl. “More specifically, I’m locked into this psychosexual suburban drama that had been ascribed to me in the ’80s. She, to some extent, is also a prisoner of the ’80s.”

The “she” in question is the dealer Mary Boone, with whom Mr. Fischl has parted ways after 36 years. “We went as far as we could go together,” he said. “There were certain things I was wanting to see if I could make

happen — she wasn’t able to do it for me — like recontextualize my work.”

“I love Mary,” he added, “and I’m so grateful to have been connected to her.”

Ms. Boone said, “Many times artists feel that changing galleries will change the perception of their work.”

“Eric’s a great friend,” she added, “and I wish the best for him.”

Mr. Fischl is moving to Per Skarstedt’s gallery, which will present a solo exhibition of his new paintings at its Upper East Side location in May. Mr. Skarstedt “has a different clientele base than Mary does, so he thinks that’ll be energizing,” Mr. Fischl said.

Mr. Skarstedt said that he had long admired the artist’s work, adding that Mr. Fischl’s palette had “really changed in the new work.”

Although still best known for his moody domestic scenes, Mr. Fischl said his work had evolved into other subjects, like bullfighting, India and art fairs. “People aren’t connecting that it’s me there who’s following threads and themes in my life,” he said, adding that he hoped people would begin to approach his work with a more open-minded curiosity, as in, “What’s he doing now?”



Skarstedt is a comfortable place for Mr. Fischl to land, given that it already represents so-called midcareer artists in Mr. Fischl's cohort, like the American painters David Salle and George Condo. Mr. Fischl said that he was wary of the category midcareer.

"The middle is like purgatory," he said. "It's not eternal, but you have no idea whether it's going to last or where you're going to go once it's over."

Image Credit: "Squirt," a 1982 painting by Eric Fischl. Skarstedt, New York

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/06/arts/design/four-marilyns-is-back-on-the-auction-block.html?ref=design&_r=0