

PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY

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PATRICKMIKHAILGALLERY.COM

**PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY presents SCINTILLATIONS, an
exhibition of new paintings by Montreal artist DENNIS EKSTEDT**

**SCINTILLATIONS
October 31 to November 26, 2007**

**Artist Reception:
Friday, November 2, 2007
5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

OTTAWA, OCTOBER 31, 2007... PATRICK MIKHAIL GALLERY is pleased to present SCINTILLATIONS, an exhibition featuring new paintings by Montreal artist DENNIS EKSTEDT that explore the many urban manifestations of electric light.

In his work, Mr. Ekstedt explores how distant views of illuminated cityscapes can resemble luminous organisms, with light acting as a kind of nervous system or pulse—a manifestation of human presence. The artist is interested in how these cityscapes can resemble or evoke the cosmos or the night sky.

In SCINTILLATIONS, Mr. Ekstedt depicts a series of images and motifs that evoke the ethereal and ephemeral nature of electric light. The works combine these images and motifs in compositions comprised of multiple layers of light phenomena, creating dramatic images where all elements—including shadows, silhouettes, and reflections—appear to be defined by light and its effects.

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Mr. Ekstedt holds a Fine Arts Diploma from Vancouver's Emily Carr Institute of Art + Design, as well as an M.F.A. from Concordia University in Montreal. His work can be found in numerous private and corporate collections including the Royal Bank of Canada, Hydro Quebec, Loto-Quebec, and Gildan Inc. In 2002 he was selected the Eastern Canada Winner in the RBC Canadian Painting Competition.

Opening next at Patrick Mikhail Gallery...STAGED, an exhibition featuring the complete portfolio of photographs of performative spaces by artist ADRIAN FISH. Mr. Fish is a winner of the Magenta Foundation's 2007 Flash Forward competition. From November 28, 2007, to January 4, 2008.

For more information:

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DENNIS EKSTEDT

ARTIST STATEMENT

In his work, Dennis Ekstedt expresses a great interest in light. In particular, the kind of electric and artificial light that is found in cities at night. For the past few years, the Montreal artist has been making paintings that depict distant views of illuminated cities at night, as seen through windows from up high. For Ekstedt, distant lights viewed through windows (such as from an airplane or a hotel window) provoke the thrill of viewing a landscape that is literally electrified by human habitation—a landscape that resembles a kind of living organism.

Ekstedt's paintings suggest various abstract and representational visual *effects* of light, and *sources* of electric light such as dissolves, shimmers, layers, inserts, projections, lamps, computer and television screens; as well as phenomena such as water, fireworks, and celestial and cosmological phenomena. The artist's goal is to evoke a kind of phenomenological sublime through the ethereal luminosity of electric light—a kind of visual sensation of luminosity. Ekstedt also wishes to evoke a sense of transcendence and the romantic sublime—a surrendering or loss of self in the face of something seemingly greater.