

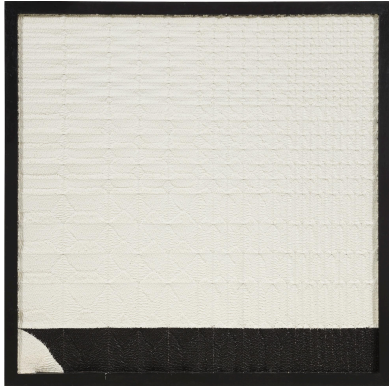
JUPITER

Independent 20th Century

Joe Zucker | Booth E3

September 4-7, 2025

The Battery Maritime Building at Cipriani South Street | 10 South Street New York, NY 10004



In her *New York Times* review of a trio of Zucker exhibitions in New York in 2003–2004, Roberta Smith—the most steadfast champion of his work over the breadth of his career—said that “Mr. Zucker occupies an important cusp between modern and postmodern, between Roy Lichtenstein and Jeff Koons. In the catalog to the Gavin Brown show [*Ravenna*, 2003] the writer Klaus Kertess aptly links him to Robert Ryman and Sigmar Polke.” Even in productive dialogue with the achievements of such a spot-on roster, over the more than sixty years of his enterprise, Zucker’s work never wavered from his deeply-felt interrogations of what a painting was, or could be. His statement for the 1978 *New Image Painting* at the Whitney succinctly made his point: “My

selection of subject matter in relation to kinds of surfaces is important. Pictorial content becomes an iconography to discuss the topography of the painting.”

Zucker received his BFA and MFA from The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, in 1964 and 1966, respectively. He remained very clear in his discussions of his work that studying within one of the world’s best museums anchored his relentless material experimentation and conceptual integrity. Moving to New York not long after, he became a fixture of the New York art scene, and his work soon caught the eye of some of the city’s most influential galleries, starting with Klaus Kertess and Jeff Byars’s Bykert Gallery.

In a time of digital consumption and “content creation,” Zucker’s work—meticulously constructed and handmade, yet resistant to superficial claims of expression—reasserts with neither nostalgia nor apology the staying power of tactility and physical presence. His work re-emerges newly vital today, inviting viewers to consider the meaning embedded in process itself—as well as the political charge inherent in the very act of artistic creation.

Placemaking is central to Jupiter’s ethos, alongside its commitment to championing artists whose material rigor and conceptual risk-taking transcend fashion. For the gallery, placemaking means creating contexts where art becomes a living terrain—spaces where the act of making itself carries politics and permanence. Within this vision, Joe Zucker’s uncompromising explorations of surface and process find a natural resonance, embodying the gallery’s belief in work that redefines how painting is experienced and understood.

Joe’s paintings are themselves acts of placemaking—material experiments that construct environments of encounter, reminding us that art does more than depict; it creates its own ground. Presenting him at Independent is not only a recognition of his legacy but also an affirmation of Jupiter’s role in shaping cultural spaces that bridge past innovation with contemporary practice. In this way, Joe’s work stands as both a foundation and a touchstone for the gallery’s larger mission: forging contexts where art asserts its vitality and relevance across generations.

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With a selection of paintings made in black, white and gray, the presentation at the Independent focuses upon the sustained rigor of his process, while not limiting the joy and humor that was equally critical to it, whether in grisaille or bursts of color.

Zucker's work is numerous public collections internationally, including: The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Museum of Modern Art, Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum of American Art, all in New York; The Art Institute of Chicago; Yale University Art Gallery; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; Philadelphia Museum of Art; Museum Ludwig, Cologne; Museum Moderne Kunst/Palais Lichtenstein, Vienna; Tel Aviv Museum; and The National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne.

Caption: Joe Zucker, *Drifting Hulk of the Doomed Whaler*, 1986, Acrylic, cord, and wood, 102.5 by 102.5 in. 260.35 by 260.35 cm. © The Estate of Joe Zucker. Courtesy of the Estate of Joe Zucker and Jupiter, Miami Beach. FL

Press Inquiries: info@jupitercontemporary.com