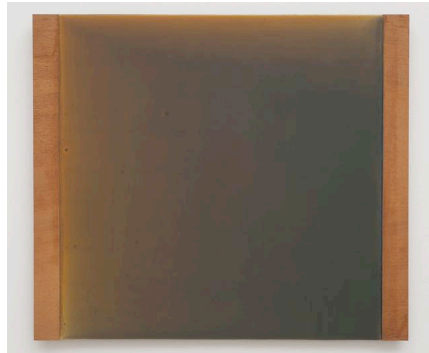


PAINTERS' TABLE

David von Schlegell: Paintings



David von Schlegell, Grey Over Yellow, 1992, Oil, Polyur on Aluminum with Wood, 19.25 x 22 inches (courtesy China Art Objects, Los Angeles)

David von Schlegell is known primarily for his large scale, outdoor, and public sculpture projects; however, he began his career as a painter - learning to paint from **his father**. He returned to painting late in life. His final show was at **Althea Viafora Gallery** in 1991, and it focused on monochrome, poured paintings on wood. These last works form the core of a new exhibition at **China Art Objects** in Los Angeles. Images of von Schlegell's early paintings are difficult to come by, but an early expressionist landscape in the Smithsonian evokes a romantic approach to nature still evident in the later paintings.

Von Schlegell's experience as a sculptor, however, is the primary influence on these paintings, which reveal a fascination with the material states of paint and poetic transformations that occur from one elemental state to another. The paintings are made from a viscous mixture of oil and Polyur - an industrial paint - poured onto wood panels. The resulting effect, Sarah Lehrer-Graiwer noted recently in Artforum, is that "each panel is a gradient field of darkly pooled pigment with a concentrated opacity that simulates surprising depth." Though solid, Von Schlegell's pooled fields of paint retain their aqueous appearance while their resinous quality alludes to both amber and varnish, a material made by combining burned amber with linseed oil.

In these final paintings, material is subjected to both a physical and philosophical alchemy that returns von Schlegell the sculptor to his romantic, painterly roots.

Submitted by Brett Baker