



ICEHOUSE Project Space

Stephen Maine, *Fire and Ice*, October 6–November 3, 2018

Sharon, CT: ICEHOUSE Project Space is pleased to present *Fire and Ice*, a large-scale, site-specific new painting by Stephen Maine. This is the second project at ICEHOUSE Project Space and is produced in cooperation with Brooklyn's ODETTA Gallery. This occasion is the sole opportunity for viewers to see the monumental, blue-and-yellow *Fire and Ice* in its entirety—the show will close with a performative action by the artist in which he will cut the work into pieces and give it away.

Fire and Ice is Maine's first and only site-specific painting. It takes visual and conceptual cues from the diminutive 19th-century structure, formerly an ice house. Ten feet high and 45 feet long, the painting lines the walls; cut-outs at the windows allow entry of natural light. The viewer stands within the work, enveloped by the optical buzz emanating from this dynamic abstraction of hot, orange-yellow blotches and jangling arabesques that dance across an expansive field of cold blues. Like a massive block of ice, the painting will be cut up for easier handling and distribution, and visitors who bring a set of stretcher bars to the closing reception will get to take home a chunk of it. Of this radical procedure, the artist says: "It isn't really the critique it might seem to be of the gallery system or the market-driven valuation of artworks. And it's certainly not a purely dada gesture. I really wanted to do a big-ass painting but I can't afford to store it—it's more cost-effective to do it and then just get rid of it."

A native of Connecticut, Stephen Maine lives and works in West Cornwall and New York City. His work has been seen recently in New York at ODETTA Gallery, Hionas Gallery, Silas von Morrissette Gallery, Next to Nothing Gallery, Westbeth Gallery, Transmitter Gallery, the Fitermann Art Center at BMCC, and the National Arts Club. His work has been reviewed in the *Brooklyn Rail*, *The New York Times*, *artcritical.com*, *The New Criterion*, and *abstractcritical.com*. He has received support from the New York Foundation for the Arts (2000) and Yaddo (2012). Maine's writing has been published regularly in *Art in America*, *ARTnews*, *The New York Sun*, *Art on Paper*, *Hyperallergic* and elsewhere. He teaches at SUNY Purchase and Hartford Art School, University of Hartford.

Five Points Gallery in Torrington, CT will present *Stephen Maine: New Paintings* from November 15 through December 22, 2018.

For further exhibition information, text KK Kozik at 917 488 8740, <https://www.k2kozik.com/icehouse-project-space>.

ICEHOUSE Project Space is an artist-run contemporary art project located at 34 Upper Main St., Sharon, CT.