

Recent Work Exhibition Frank Stella

As I reflect on two important constants in my life, Frank Stella and Björn Wetterling, I believe our triumvirate of friendship and art gelled at the onset of the 1980s. These were momentous times, with Stella revolutionizing all our activities at Tyler Graphics, including hand papermaking. Robert Hughes rhapsodizes about this phenomenon in his 1983 TIME magazine essay, "Expanding What Prints Can Do." The momentum of Stella's prints at Tyler Graphics take off from the 1980 gate like race horses on a decades-long winning streak. Hughs sums it up: "Stella's graphics take on the size and power of paintings, and much of its coloristic resonance."

Hughes was there, and so was Björn, witnessing firsthand the radical experimentation Stella and I were engaged in at Tyler Graphics and the spillover of innovation back-and-forth from the prints to the paintings. It was a heady time for us, lasting through to the beginning of the new millennium, with Stella's sculptural work, paintings, collages, and architecture influencing his graphic work and vice-versa. Björn is still part of the equation, and Stella is still going strong as he continues pushing the boundaries and vision of his art.

All the while, Wetterling Gallery has welcomed and promoted the new work, from those first *Swan Engravings* to the enormous *FOUNTAIN* print, measuring 231.1 x 700.4 cm, which we first exhibited in Japan. Björn rode this wave of exuberance with us. Show-after-show, he not only brought exhibitions to Sweden, but flew Swedish collectors to the US to come visit our studios and see the art as it was being created, both in Stella's NYC studio and at Tyler Graphics. As the years passed, the energy did not diminish. Instead, Björn's reach extended further, going to Southeast Asia, as he and we set up shop in Singapore (Björn opening a branch of his gallery there, and my wife, Marabeth, and I starting the Singapore Tyler Print Institute, opening with a Stella exhibition of reliefs in 2002).

I think of both Björn and Frank as extraordinary and unique Art Olympians. Björn carries the Olympian flame, passed to him by Leo Castelli. Frank meanwhile brings colossal innovation and skill, causing paradigmatic shift and raising the creative bar higher and higher.

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