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"Thought Aggregate," 2016, Alex Weinstein, Oil on canvas, 75" x 111" Courtesy: Leslie Sacks Gallery

Alex Weinstein at Leslie Sacks Gallery

On view through June 10, 2017

Over the past decade, Alex Weinstein's depictions of the sea have grown increasingly abstract, from expansive vistas across an expansive, choppy sea to evocative abstractions verging toward a Rothko-ian spirituality. The original impetus for the subject is not only his passion for surfing, but a near-death experience trapped under the frothy surf in 1983. In the current series on view in the back room of Leslie Sacks Gallery, the viewer is also taken underwater. A core of luminous white, comprised of layered brushstrokes, anchors each painting and suggests the effect of sunlight hitting the surface from a vantage point below the surface. From white, the color quickly fades through tints and shades of blue to nearly black, fulfilling Kandinsky's 1914 treatise on color, describing when blue "sinks to almost black, it echoes a grief that is hardly human." The experience is at once haunting and transcendent.