

KATE WERBLE

KEN TISA

DREAM MAPS

MARCH 15 - May 26, 2023

Ken Tisa's solo exhibition, *Dream Maps* will show 8 beaded textile works at Kate Werble's soho location. This exhibition is notable because it is the first time Tisa will exhibit new beaded textiles since the late 1980's. It is his third exhibition with the gallery.

Tisa's longtime friend and collaborator, the poet Max Blagg wrote a new poem on the occasion of this exhibition:

What's the frequency, Kenneth?

Curl the lip shake the hip, gloomy Sunday,
the abrupt shenanigans of a lost party
these conflagrations of Bilbao button and bow
.the moon so perfect over Canal Street
evening star cradled in its curve of wet light
psychic phenomena ransacking the frantic mind
on October days when the light traveled
in gold carriages through blue afternoons,
your paws on the hose that feeds the lawn
and moves the needle through the fabric.
Magic invocations to your demon brother
echo in the well lit room, magic marker oh
rust stains on a kitchen sink lichen on a branch
the bountiful minutiae that drives life along.
The muse is summoned by careful placement
of needle and thread, burning paper not enough
to rouse her from her bed of silken eider down.
The sun warms the street today, and the worn ice melts.
What is the velocity at which spring approaches?

Maria Callas wails about some huge romantic problem
that will be fixed in three short acts. Delete the Greek
with the rheumy eyes concealed behind Persols.
Air out the sun, how you were supposed to live,
with grace and glory and spasms of pure laughter
girdle-splitting shrieks that enrage the neighbors
sitting around in silence counting their shekels.
Had about enough, glass not quite half full
will not be buried nor burned this year or next,
nor deep sea diver failing striver, arriviste arriving last
unkissed and fast to a rock of his own devising,
condemned to limbo pronto he could have walked
but preferred to face the music, Callas in full throat
direct application of sonic beauty lifted him
into the high accumulation peaking on the peak
and no lightning strike nor thundercrack

**474 BROADWAY, THIRD FLOOR
NEW YORK | NEW YORK 10013**

WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY, 12 PM UNTIL 5 PM

KATE WERBLE

sent down an avalanche of sighs

innocence wrecked by chemicals forty years ago,
wreckage long since refined into recollection,
stimulating moments of youth and pleasure
embedded like shrapnel in the cranium
gleaming sequins scattered on a staircase
at the Chelsea Hotel, visiting Charles James
and his unsightly poodle it was all in his head
room for one more inside a long ride to these
Bayonne tapestries from a bedroom
filled with dolls in Camden New Jersey,
spool of thread unwound like a hawk on a wire,
whispered messages electric tendrils
fibers conducting optics through talons sharp
as needles weave a hanging for your cosy cage,
warm as the pelt become a fur throw rug
on which the pine marten now reclines,
digesting the burrow's former occupant.
Forensic variations on memory and desire
piercing as a medieval inquisition,
Bacchus wrapping roots around your shapely ankles,
mementos mori, conjuring Heaven, Eden
and the Sea of Seers...

-Max Blagg

Ken Tisa (USA, b. 1945 in Philadelphia, PA) received his BFA from Pratt Institute and his MFA from Yale School of Art and Architecture. Tisa has held solo exhibitions at Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY (2017, 2013); Gordon Robichaux, New York, NY (2017); Centre d'Art et de Culture, Aix-en-Provence, FR (2007, 2004); Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD (2006); Stellweg-Seguy Gallery, New York, NY (1988); Alexander Wood Gallery, New York, NY (1986); and Fischbach Gallery, New York, NY (1972). His work has been exhibited at venues including the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY; The Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa, OK; MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY; Artist's Space, New York, NY; and Art in General, New York, NY. He lives and works in soho, in New York, NY.

**474 BROADWAY, THIRD FLOOR
NEW YORK | NEW YORK 10013**

WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY, 12 PM UNTIL 5 PM