

JOHANSSON /PROJECTS/

MATT KLEBERG | PRESS LINKS

New York Times, “The Lower East Side as Petri Dish” April 21, 2016 **Roberta Smith**
“...Matt Kleberg, who complicates the parallel stripes of modernism with light and shadow, wilder colors and warped spaces that conjure abstract prosceniums and archways. The endearing results pay homage to Frank Stella but take visionary liberties...” [LINK](#)

Maake Magazine, “Interview With Matthew Kleberg” 2018 **Emily Burns**
“Another big theme is the potential aura that art can have, that mysterious electric charge, and the fragility or limitations of that charge. Making paintings feels like alchemy, attempting to elevate the mundane. I’m interested in that as subject matter, this marriage of high and low, like the mechanic shop with an overly ornamental facade or the fish market with the elaborately arched gate.” [LINK](#)

Telluride Inside, “On Main: Edgy Art Space Hosts Matt Kleberg” August 25, 2018 **Susan Viebrock**
“Matt Kleberg paintings of abstracted passages in the form of warped prosceniums and archways are largely built with oil sticks which lay down brightly-hued stripes and concentric shapes of oftentimes cacophonous colors. Structurally the artist’s intensely engaging, decorative images walk a tightrope between architectural volume and painterly flatness, paying tribute to one of the artist’s major influences: Frank Stella. However, while honoring his debt to one of the greatest artists of the 20th century and beyond, Kleberg takes exception to one of Stella’s most famous dictums: ‘*What you see is what you see.*’ In contrast, he believes: ‘*We can’t escape the world. It is our visual vocabulary.*’” [LINK](#)

Visual Art Source, “Matt Kleberg and Woody De Othello” May 2017 **Dewitt Cheng**
“Kleberg’s large oil + paintstick canvases have the bright palette of 1960s hard-edge abstraction, but none of its dogmatic insistence on flatness, materiality + literal interpretation. Indeed, they play with the old metaphor of painted space as a virtual world..” [LINK](#)

Artillery Mag, “Othello/Kleberg” May 2, 2017 **Barbara Morris**
“...*Fire and Brownstone* (2016), in verdant shades of green and yellow, accented with dark bands, wryly conflates the iconic apartments of Brooklyn, where the artist now resides, with damnation in the nether world...” [LINK](#)

Brooklyn Mag, “Behind the Bulkhead: Artists of the Brooklyn Navy Yard”, March 7, 2017 **Laura Itzkowitz**
“...his paintings are the kind of pieces you want to be able to take in from a good vantage point. Filled with colorful stripes and rigid geometries, they channel architectural spaces like archways and theater stages... they ‘pay homage to Frank Stella but take visionary liberties’...” [LINK](#)

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Brooklyn Rail, “Artseen: Matt Kleberg” June 3, 2016 Jonathan Goodman

“...Kleberg, a recent graduate of Pratt Institute, makes work that feels like a contemporary version of the New York School, with a rough edge that ensures its presence in a current context....At the same time, though, we must acknowledge their urban buoyancy, forming a nearly kaleidoscopic vision that addresses both the surface of the canvas and the illusory perspective of inner space...” [LINK](#)

Painting is Dead, “Hankerings” May 11, 2016 Scott Robinson

“...the power of Kleberg’s work is in how he charges empty space...” [LINK](#)

Painting is Dead, “Matt Phillips with Matt Kleberg” December 12, 2015

“...These paintings are like frames within frames within frames within frames. There’s a lot of framing. There are stripes. Everything is rhythmic. And some have curtains drawn back and everything is vibrating into the middle... and the thing is empty. But those empty spaces are also the only place where any kind of illusion happens. They are very flat paintings. The illusion is kind of fleeting. It always collapses, but that is what paintings forever have done. They give us these moments of magic where this flat space becomes another world. So on one hand those spaces are empty and on the other hand, that’s the only place where the painting magic happens...” [LINK](#)

C-Ville, “Amazing space: Matt Kleberg frames the narrative with ‘Coming Close’”

December 18, 2015 **Elizabeth Derby**

“His large oil paintings feature thick, candy-colored stripes and geometrical shapes that evoke a platform, stage or shadow box-style absence in the center of the frame.” [LINK](#)

Vice, “All the Beautiful, Expensive, and Corny Art I Saw at Art Basel This Year” December 11, 2015 Nick Gazin

“...The concentric lines are beautiful to me, the color choices are perfect. The ways the lines are parallel to the edge of the canvas and the places where they are not are all great...” [LINK](#)

Artnosh, “Matt Kleberg” April 20, 2011 Sarah Sargent

“...How he applies the paint—with bravura brushstrokes—his sure line, strong palette and clear grasp of compositional arrangements reveal a confidence rare in one so young...” [LINK](#)

The Hook, “Exercises in Contrasts” August 15, 2011 Laura Parsons

“...Kleberg stood out in the McGuffey Art Center’s 2011 “New Members Show,” where he impressed with vivid colors and rapid-fire, intuitive brushwork...” [LINK](#)

The Hook, “Different Strokes: McGuffey showcases new members” January 24, 2011 Laura Parsons

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“...only Matt Kleberg jolted me awake with the energy of his strokes. Kleberg's oversized oils examine death and transition in the natural world, yet his exuberant style of dashing color across the canvas infuses his dark subjects with dynamism...” [LINK](#)

The Hook, “April First Friday: No excuses edition” April 2, 2010 **Laura Parsons**

“...A UVA alum, Kleberg creates jaw-droppingly beautiful large-scale portraits of people often overlooked in the everyday...” [LINK](#)

New American Paintings, “Scenes From Untitled Art Fair 2016” 2016 **Andrew Katz** [LINK](#)

“Matt Kleberg Caterwauler” Catalogue Essay 2016 **Alex Bacon** [LINK](#)

Houston Chronicle July 29, 2016 **Molly Glentzer** [LINK](#)

New American Paintings, “Paintings Picks from Dallas Art Fair” 2016 **Arthur Peña** [LINK](#)

Brooklyn Magazine, “How Did the Wythe Hotel Become an Incubator” March 23, 2016
Laura Itzkowitz [LINK](#)

Artsy, “50 Must-See Artworks at NADA, PULSE, UNTITLED, and Art Miami” December 5, 2015 **Alexa Hotthardt** [LINK](#)

ArtDaily, “Untitled, Miami Beach, 2015 raises the bar” 2015 [LINK](#)

Joanne Mattera Art Blog, “Fair Fetched” December 25, 2015 [LINK](#)

WYNC, “The Bible and Pakistan in a Brooklyn Gallery” April 19, 2015 **Lee Hernandez** [LINK](#)

ArtStormer Blog, “Range Rover: paintings by Matt Kleberg” 2012 **Betsy Wills**

C-Ville, “Chroms Celebrates the Human Form” 2012 **Sarah Sargent**

C-Ville, “Disparate Times” 2011 **Peter Barnes**

ArtStormer Blog, “Magicicada: paintings by Matt Kleberg” 20011 **Betsy Wills**

C-Ville, “Fresh Paint” 2011 **Peter Barnes**

Cville Niche Magazine, “Portrait Artist: Matt Kleberg” 2010 **Ann Mahone**