

# ONETWENTYEIGHT



Maxwell Stevens  
"Two Musicians, Central Park"  
Oil on canvas (Detail)  
63 x 51 in / 160 x 130 cm  
2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **MAXWELL STEVENS "AUTUMN LEAVES" NEW PAINTINGS**

**October 1 – November 21, 2021** Opening Reception: **Friday, October 8, 6 - 8 pm**  
Gallery Hours: **Tuesday - Saturday 11 am - 6 pm, Sunday 1 - 5 pm, and by appointment**

**NEW YORK - ONETWENTYEIGHT** is pleased to present **MAXWELL STEVENS "AUTUMN LEAVES"** a new suite of oil paintings centering around an impromptu ensemble of musicians practicing together at New York City's famed Bethesda Fountain in Central Park. Initially conceived and begun prior to the pandemic, the series was further refined and elaborated upon while the artist was quarantined in his NYC studio, serving as a meditation on cultural diversity and the positive social interaction that is one of the defining characteristics of New York.

Interrelationships between painting, music, and the seasons have long drawn associations in world culture and art. Abstract painting in particular, has had numerous comparisons made to music since Kandinsky's groundbreaking "Improvisations" and "Compositions" series, and alternately, various musicians such as Vivaldi have created their own compositions based upon the seasons, while inspired by the landscape paintings of Marco Ricci. By combining emotive abstractions with representational clarity, Maxwell delves inside this relationship and makes it explicit. In rhythmic improvisations of lemon yellows, emerald greens and oxblood reds, vivid smears and gestures overtake the meticulously detailed portraits of the musicians themselves, with images alternating between the spatial depths of crisp autumn park scenes and fluid, glassy designs of pure abstract form.

In the large central panel "Autumn Leaves, Rehearsal at Bethesda Fountain" measuring 6' x 8', a young violinist gazes out at the viewer from beneath undulating movements of lime green and autumn gold. As her companions focus intently on the musical score at hand, a wedding rehearsal is underway with bridesmaids laughing in the background. In the upper right corner, the artist has included Emma Stebbins' magnificent sculpture, in reverence to the first female artist to have a public work commissioned in NYC, the bronze angel looming over the lively scene.

The happenstance nature of how we collect in the city's public spaces is evident throughout the series, as background characters shift from random tourists to friends and families relaxing outside, yet they retain the tensions of unpredictability that underlie city life. In paintings such as "Blue Dancer" and "Drum Circle, Central Park" performers interact directly with passersby, the dynamic abstractions sliding across the images creating their own hybrid scores, while eliciting the unpredictable nature of improvisation in art, music, and life.

**MAXWELL STEVENS "Autumn Leaves" NEW PAINTINGS is on view from October 1 through November 21, 2021, with an opening reception on Friday, October 8, 2021, 6-8 pm. For sales inquiries please contact the gallery at [autumnleavespaintings@gmail.com](mailto:autumnleavespaintings@gmail.com), +1.212.674.0244, +1.646.341.0175.**



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