While Grotfeldt was firmly grounded in the traditions of the West, his work clearly has an affinity to certain schools of Chinese painting: monochromatic spontaneous gestures often floating on an empty ground. Grotfeldt trained as a photorealist in the 1970s and while his style evolved radically, he was always the master of his own hand as seen in the crisp lines and deliberate application of even unconventional materials. His signature technique was developed after a meeting with artist Waldo Bien, a former student of Joseph Beuys, with whom he shared a long and productive series of collaborations.

This exhibition features almost thirty works on paper and canvas from the last 15 years of Grotfeldt’s very prolific career. Grotfeldt, a resident of Houston, died of cancer in 2009.

— Anne Lawrence

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