



Sean Scully

Eleuthera

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Text by Werner Spies

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ISBN	9783735605665
Publisher	Kerber
Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Germany, Austria, Switzerland, the US & Canada
Size	280 mm x 240 mm
Pages	168 Pages
Illustrations	106 color, 12 b&w
Price	£32.00

- Published to accompany a major exhibition of Sean Scully at Albertina, Vienna
- An unexpected turn: an abstract painter becomes figurative
- Touching portraits of Sean Scully's son Oisín
- Richly illustrated, and includes material from the artist's private archive

In a spectacular move, the Albertina presents Sean Scully from a hitherto unfamiliar side with a series of large figurative paintings of his son Oisín playing on the beach of Eleuthera, an island in the Bahamas. Scully's inimitable pictures used to rely solely on paint – applied with a strong, but above all abstract gesture – the new series however appears like a surprising point of reversal. Yet, the new paintings are a return to his earliest beginnings, as, in the 1950s, Scully embarked along the Fauves and German Expressionism from realism into the realm of pure colour. Even today, abstraction, as he sees it, is still infused with memories of figurative sources. This richly illustrated catalogue brings together all *Oisín-Paintings*, enriched by graphic works from Albertina's collection, extensive material from Scully's private archive, as well as in-depth essays by Werner Spies and Elisabeth Dutz elaborating on this newly obtained painterly freedom.

Sean Scully: 1945: born in Dublin. 1968-1972: Newcastle University, Newcastle. 1965 1968: Croydon College of Art, London. 1962-1965: Central School of Art, London. 1977-1983: Professor, Princeton university, Princeton. 2002-2007: Professor, Academy of Fine Arts, Munich. Lives in New York and Munich. Selected institutional exhibitions: Cincinnati Art Museum Ohio, Drawing Center New York, Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth, Haus der Kunst Munich, Hirshhorn Museum & Sculpture Garden Washington D.C., Metropolitan Museum of Art New York, Museo de Arte Moderno Mexico City, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen Düsseldorf, Museum for Art and Culture Münster, National Gallery London, Wadsworth Atheneum Hartford, National Gallery of Ireland Dublin, Pinacoteca do Estado São Paulo, Philadelphia Museum of Art Philadelphia, Kunstmuseum Bern, Phillips Collection Washington D.C.

