

New York-based artist Christopher Wool has worked out of the same studio since the early 1990s. Situated on the top two floors of the building that was once home to legendary art dealer Pat Hearn in the early 1980s, his location in the heart of the East Village recalls that edgy New York art scene, which has by now entered the history books.

Twenty years on and things have changed somewhat, although Wool's attachment to the area is still as strong as ever. His studio, littered with giant canvasses, pots of paint and the odd pair of industrial strength rubber gloves, has both the intimacy of a personal

hideaway and the grandeur of a blue chip Chelsea gallery. It is the perfect space in which to contemplate his beautiful and enigmatic paintings as well as giving him a suitable vantage point from which to survey the New York streets below.

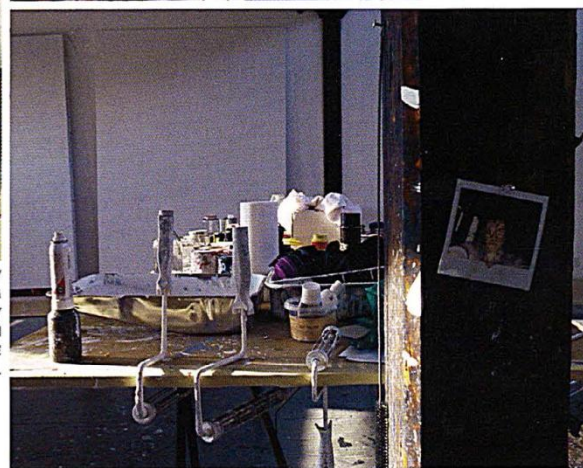
"Every painting for me in this space is an experiment," Wool exclaims. "I remember Richard Prince once said, 'As a photographer I am practising without a licence.' I basically feel the same when I work with silk-screens. Rather than making my work technically perfect, I like to find my own way, although sometimes this approach can be frustrating.

The way I paint is so much about throwing it up on the wall and looking at it later. I usually work on the top floor studio and then bring individual canvasses down to the fifth floor which I use as a kind of halfway house. That means my paintings are continually going back and forth until I feel finished with them. Sometimes this can take a month, sometimes a lot longer. That is what I find so stimulating. I never know how long each work will take. It simply has to evolve at its own pace."

Good on Paper

A RARE GLIMPSE BEHIND THE DOORS OF ARTIST CHRISTOPHER WOOL'S STUDIO.

TEXT MARK SANDERS PHOTOGRAPHY JAY HANNAH



CHRISTOPHER WOOL'S LATEST PAINTINGS WILL BE ON VIEW AT THE **GAGOSIAN GALLERY** IN LOS ANGELES FROM MARCH 2. A MAJOR RETROSPECTIVE OF HIS WORK AND SPRAY PAINTINGS FROM 1988 TO THE PRESENT WILL ALSO BE ON VIEW AT THE **INSTITUTO VALENCIANO DE ARTE MODERNO** IN SPAIN FROM APRIL 6.