

GAGOSIAN GALLERY



Rudolf Stingel

If you believe in the romance of painting for painting's sake, then the six black-and-white mountain landscapes by this Italian artist, whose photo-realism resolves into pointillist confusion when seen up close, may leave you cold. If you think the medium has exhausted itself, you'll appreciate the conceptual inclusion of scratches and flares from the paintings' source photographs, or the footprints and debris that accrete on their surfaces. Stingel, of course, sees it both ways, and his faith in painting and doubts about it—his dogged commitment to a medium he endlessly deconstructs—have rarely fused with so much intensity. Through April 19. (Gagosian, 522 W. 21st St. 212-741-1717.)