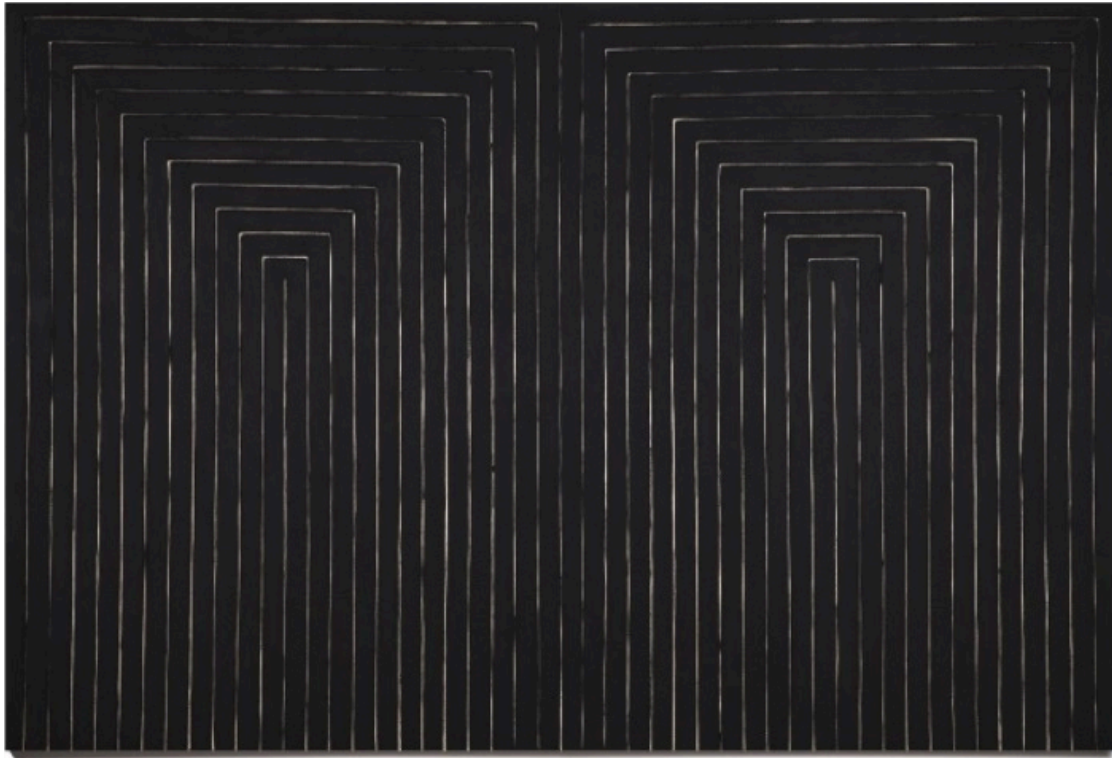


GBE
439 W. 127TH STREET
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BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL

SEPTEMBER 15 – OCTOBER 26, 2019



Sturtevant, *Stella The Marriage of Reason and Squalor (Second Version)*, 1990, black enamel on canvas, 90 x 131 7/8 inches (228.6 x 335 cm).

In 1990, Sturtevant painted Frank Stella's iconic black canvases. The results were morbid and glamorous: matte enamel bands separated by fuzzy pinstripes of nearly bare canvas, which to this day confound with simplicity and dour aggression. What excited Sturtevant was not only the urinal of subjectivity, but the life of a painting below the surface. She hoped to find what she called "the interior of art." Nice idea, easy to think, but harder to come to restful terms with.

To prolong her mysterious statement, Gavin Brown's enterprise will present *Bethlehem Hospital*, an exhibition of Sturtevant's "Stellas" shown alongside contributions by the following artists: Anne Truitt, Stan Douglas, Joan Jonas, Jack Whitten, Mark Leckey, Frances Stark, Willem Oorebeek, Rirkrit Tiravanija, and others. The exhibition is not an homage to Sturtevant, nor a way to anoint the paintings. Instead, it is an open inquiry into the works and the confounding questions they ask. The exhibition is also a response to the presiding logic of group exhibitions: "time period" or "theme". Instead, this exhibition is less lucid and more mixed up. It asks: can an artwork charge the "Stella" and in turn be charged? In this way, the show will not be one cohesive thing but a staging of relations.

