

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PAUL KOLKER

Buber, You and I Know the Reason Why... Go Digital! The Dialogue

September 24 — December 10, 2009

Opening Reception Thursday, September 24

Downstairs at the salon of studio601, 6-8pm

Hours: Monday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm

NEW YORK, August 24, 2009 studio601 is pleased to present (September 24 through December 10, 2009) the fourth installation of Paul Kolker's yearlong *Go Digital!* series of paintings, prints, high definition photographs, and fractal sculptures celebrating the conversion of American broadcast television to digital format. *Buber, You and I Know the Reason Why... Go Digital! The Dialogue* is about the power of non-verbal or silent communication exchanged between a person and another or between a person and an object, to create the relationship of oneness represented by the hyphenated "I-Thou" or solitary digital dot.

Kolker's work, symbolic of the digital dot of computers, televisions, and cell phones, uses a process called *fracolor*—of image fractionation by fractal computer graphics and painting with optical and pigment colors, mixed only with black and/or white, resulting in tints and shades, and overlaid with a dot grid. In this show, Kolker weaves the existential ideas of non-verbal or silent communication of Martin Buber's *Ich und Du (I and Thou)* with the implications of Marie and Gathie Barnette's silence—their refusal to recite the Pledge of Allegiance in their public school class, which led to the Supreme Court's holding that silence is constitutionally protected speech. A series of three large-scale portraits of the sisters, painted in acrylic on canvas, each composed of 17,424 dots, are circumscribed with a grid of red, white, or blue, symbolic of their patriotism for the flag before which they remained silent in accordance with their Jehovah's Witnesses beliefs.



The exhibition also includes four large-scale acrylic and ink paintings on canvas, 99 x 99 inches, with excerpts from *Ich und Du* overlaid on film positive and negative images of the author. These portraits elucidate Buber's concept of direct experience, one that is real and perceivable, as a viewer before a work of art exemplifies the "Ich-Du" encounter in which infinity and oneness are united. Variations of experience are iterated in the different tints and shades of the 1936 digital dots composing each of the paintings, *buber blau* and *buber weiss*, each at 132 x 132 inches, the blue as the ascendancy color of spirituality — "looking skyward," and the other identical image, in Corot-like clouded white of obscurity.

A large-scale ceiling mural of the American flag and the Pledge of Allegiance is suspended above a mirrored sculpture which repeats the words "I Vow" (a play on "I-Thou") to infinity. The image of the mural, reflected in the mirrors of the fractal box, draws a tension between the words of the Pledge of Allegiance and the "I Vow" *Kol Nidrei* nullification. Six wall-mounted fractal boxes of mirror and LED lights repeat geometric shapes as a Mandelbrotian progression of starry dots *ad infinitum*, while the Buberian dialogues between the viewers and the works... Go Digital!

Buber, You and I know the Reason Why... Go Digital! The Dialogue will be on view downstairs at the salon of studio601, located at 511 west 25th Street between 10th and 11th Avenues, New York. Above image: Paul Kolker, *buber blau, too*, 2009, inkjet and acrylic on canvas, 9801 dots, a fracolor in nine parts, 99 x 99 inches. To schedule a private visit, please contact info@studio601.org or 212.367.7300. More images can be found at www.paulkolker.com.