

GALERIE GISELA CAPITAIN

RICHARD SMITH
2020

January 17 - February 20,

Galerie Gisela Capitain is pleased to announce the third exhibition of works by the British painter Richard Smith (b. 1931 in Letchworth, Hertfordshire, Great Britain, d. 2016 in Patchogue, USA). On display are works from the series "paper pulps" created in 1981.

Richard Smith was one of the most influential artists of his generation in Great Britain the 1960s. While Smith's early work was predominantly concerned with American Abstract Expressionism, he began to integrate elements of the then-emerging Pop Art into his work in the 1960s.

Continuing to pursue the ambitions of Abstract Expressionism and color field painting, Smith gave the pop themes a formalist aesthetic. The fusion of these divergent artistic approaches and the resulting tension made his work unique in Great Britain. Since the early 1970s, Smith's work has dealt intensively with the relationship between illusionistic color space and three-dimensional architectural space. The "paper pulps" represent a further development of this examination. In the relief-like, collaged works, Smith fans out his vocabulary of color and form over various levels, thus generating a pictorial space that makes the exhibition space part of the picture. "I had thought that the process of making paper would match my formal vocabulary very closely. The making of stencils or screens in squares and rectangles in shapes and proportions that we familiarly accept in paper are the shapes I use in my paintings. The thinness of the paper is consistent with the thinness of the unsupported canvas in the paintings which do not have the implied objectness of canvas tacked to wooden stretcher bars. "

(Richard Smith)

Smith's deconstruction of the elements of classical canvas painting deals not only with surface construction but also with color contrasts, light, and a reformulation of drawing.

His progressive approach to painting and his highly individual approach make him one of the most radical and original artists of his time.