

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTOPHER LE BRUN: *FIGURE AND PLAY*

May 4 - July 10, 2020

albertz benda, New York



Figure and Play (2020). Oil on two canvases. 63 1/4 x 110 3/8 inches (160.5 x 280.4 cm)

New York, NY - albertz benda is delighted to announce *Figure and Play*, featuring new paintings by Christopher Le Brun. The exhibition will be on view from May 4 through July 10, 2020.

In this most recent body of work, created over the course of the past two years, Le Brun continues his explorations of doubles and diptychs, drawing out new visual unities through the juxtaposition of seemingly oppositional elements. In the titular diptych *Figure and Play* (2020), the eye passes back forth between the rich putty colors of the left-hand canvas and the fiery and viridescent hues on the right. With each reading, ever more complexity appears, and with that greater depth and beauty.

Within the single canvas works, produced with equal frequency and concurrently to the diptychs, multiple visual themes exist within one frame. In *Cloud, Castle, Lake* (2020) for example, the sequence of colors is unified by a bold yellow passage reaching from edge to edge across layered chords of azure and turquoise, evoking sensations of harmony and dissonance.

albertz benda

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For the online presentation, Le Brun has made short films about each painting which can be viewed on the show's webpage. An exhibition catalogue with text by Matthew Hargraves, Chief Curator of Art, Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, CT is also available for download through our website.

About Christopher Le Brun

Christopher Le Brun is a painter, printmaker and sculptor. Born in Portsmouth in 1951 he trained at the Slade and Chelsea Schools of Art, London. In his early career, he was a double prize winner at the John Moores exhibitions, 1978 & 1980, also showing in the Venice Biennale, 1982, and the groundbreaking *Zeitgeist* at the Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin 1982. His work can be found in museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Arts, New York; Tate, the V&A and the British Museum, London; the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia and the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven, USA.

For almost thirty years, Le Brun has continuously served as a trustee of major British art institutions: Tate, National Gallery, Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Royal Drawing School and the National Portrait Gallery. Elected to the Royal Academy of Arts in 1996, he became the first ever Professor of Drawing. He was subsequently elected President from 2011-2019. During this period, he oversaw the most significant master plan redevelopment in the Academy's 250-year history and is widely acknowledged as having revitalized the Academy's reputation through its world class exhibitions, post-graduate school, and Academician membership.

His work is characterized by an adherence to the essential values of touch, light, space and color while maintaining a questioning and strongly individual stance in relation to contemporary art history. Early on he was described variously as a post-modernist or Neo-expressionist. His art is rooted in the long tradition of the English appreciation of landscape and nature - whether expressed in painting, poetry or music - which provide a common ground frequently referred to throughout his work.

About albertz benda

Founded in 2015 by Thorsten Albertz and Marc Benda, albertz benda is devoted to an international contemporary visual arts program featuring rediscoveries as well as introductions — from seminal figures in their field whose work warrants further exploration, to debut presentations of artists that are new to New York.

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For further information or to request images, members of the media may contact Rachel Tretter
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