

HAUSER & WIRTH

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Press Release

Rita Ackermann Fire by Days

Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly
18 September – 3 November 2012
Opening: Monday 17 September 6 – 8 pm

Hauser & Wirth is proud to present 'Fire by Days', an exhibition of the eponymous series of paintings and works on paper by New York-based artist, Rita Ackermann. 'Fire by Days', a title inspired by French poet Roger Gilbert-Lecomte's 'Vacancy in Glass', began as an accidental spill of paint on the artist's studio floor, which Ackermann mopped up using a Hungarian fire safety poster.

'Vacancy in Glass'

To a palace made
Of wind
To a palace whose towers
Are pillars of fire by day
To an opal palace
In the sky's zenith heart
The bird of pale air
Flies
In a swift white line
On black space
A brushstroke
Signifying absence

Roger Gilbert-Lecomte
(1907 – 1943)
In 'Black Mirror: The Selected
Poems of Roger Gilbert-Lecomte'



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'These paintings came to me from, or as, an accident: suddenly the forms and shapes of hastily cleaning up a mess of paint on a surface suggested something that wasn't a figure or a face, but rather both, or abstract. This is how the first 'Fire by Days' images arose. I had no intention to make this picture. It was an accident.'

'As Paul Virilio once said, "Sublimation of the hunt...the course of painting imposes a cleared surface, a sublimation of war". The speed of the action demanded a pure surface in which I found the perfect image. To roll in complete freedom and depth in the desert; this is far more exciting than passing through a delimited course.'

'I wanted to then duplicate the pure power of the accident and through this image, multiply its freedom. By repeating the elements of the raw creation of a "disaster" and failing to keep it from unintentional "learned" gestures, I succeeded at arriving at something that violently pushed itself between figuration and abstraction, pushing through to make itself completely free. This type of freedom in painting only arrives for mere seconds, or rather for an immeasurable amount of time, but reveals infinite perspective.'



'In these paintings, the moment – that immeasurable amount of time while the artist is allowed to hold "the foot of God" – produces an image that carries itself through the surface, through its depth to open itself to the next work that will also attempt to stretch "the moment" of peace in constant war'.

Rita Ackermann
July 2012

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Rita Ackermann was born in Hungary in 1968. She studied art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Budapest and at the New York Studio School, New York NY. She currently lives and works in New York NY. This is her first show with Hauser & Wirth.

Ackermann's work has been shown in numerous international institutions. Recent solo exhibitions include 'Rita Ackermann', Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami FL (2012); 'Bakos', Múzeum Ludwig, Budapest, Hungary (2011); 'Rita Ackermann and Harmony Korine: Shadow Fux', Swiss Institute, New York NY (2010); 'Last Exit to Poitiers', Le Confort Moderne, Poitiers, France (2010); and the travelling exhibition, 'Marfa / Crash', which opened at The Chinati Foundation, Marfa TX in 2009. Ackermann's group shows include 'Tableaux', Le Magasin Centre National d'art Contemporain, Grenoble, France (2011); 'Looking at Music: 3.0', Museum of Modern Art, New York NY; and 'Street and Studio', Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria (2010). Ackermann's work was also featured in the 2008 Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY.

Forthcoming exhibitions:

Paul McCarthy 'PROPO'
Thomas Houseago 'The mess I'm looking for'
1 September – 20 October 2012
Hauser & Wirth Zürich

Berlinde De Bruyckere
5 September – December 2012
Hauser & Wirth Outdoor Sculpture

Thomas Houseago 'I'll be your sister' and 'Special Brew'
7 September – 27 October 2012
Hauser & Wirth London

A Visual Essay on Gutai at 32 East 69th Street
12 September – 27 October 2012
Hauser & Wirth New York

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Fire by Days XII
2011
Oil, spray paint and acrylic on canvas
274.3 x 185.4 cm / 108 x 73 in
Photo: Christopher Burke

Fire by Days Nudes III
2011
Oils, enamel and crayon on paper
111.8 x 76.2 cm / 44 x 30 in
Photo: Christopher Burke

Fire by Days The Fool II
2012
Oil and spray paint on vellum
61 x 48.3 cm / 24 x 19 in
Photo: Genevieve Hanson