

Press Release

Joanna Pousette-Dart

16 November 2021 – 22 January 2022
67 Lisson Street, London

For her first exhibition in London, New York-based artist Joanna Pousette-Dart will present a selection of recent paintings. Rendered in her signature format of multi-panel curved canvases, these dynamic compositions incorporate a myriad of influences, fusing together the beauty and power of light and shape to offer a poetic illusion to the experience of place, nature and one's surrounding space.

Born in New York, the daughter of Richard Pousette-Dart, a founding member of the New York School of painting, Pousette-Dart attended Bennington College in Vermont and studied with Color Field painters Kenneth Noland and Larry Poons, among others. Never at home with a formalist concept of painting, she has pursued a more poetic approach to format and image throughout her career.

Pousette-Dart's work with shaped panels began in the 1990s while working in the Southwestern desert of the United States. Feeling confined by the limitations of the rectangle, she began searching for a way to create a pictorial space that would more accurately reflect her perceptions. The resulting configurations of curvilinear panels are an active and organically-evolving alternative, at once evoking the curvature of the earth and one's field of vision. Pousette-Dart has described her work as a sort of "visceral interchange with nature", meant to transport the viewer. With light and place as her originating impulse, her paintings suggest a sense of being present within a constantly shifting space-light continuum.

In each of Pousette-Dart's paintings, all elements dynamically interlock. The panels' edges are bevelled, mitigating their physicality and allowing the shapes to float on the wall. At the same time, the interior drawing is in constant dialogue with the outer edges, sometimes echoing and sometimes contradicting them, creating a sense of motion and rebalancing in space. Calligraphic lines and suggestive forms interweave the panels as if joining different realms. Areas of colour are built up in thin layers creating glowing undertones and overtones, while tonal shifts within the works subtly move from light to dark or warm to cool resulting in a quality of light that feels ambient, constantly adjusting and readjusting as one experiences the work.

Pousette-Dart sites numerous sources of inspiration for her work—Mozarabic and Catalan art, Chinese landscape painting and calligraphy, Mayan and Native American art, Etruscan tomb paintings, numerous Byzantine and Romanesque fresco cycles and the landscape itself, to name a few. But rather than elicit literal references or depictions, her works explore the nature of consciousness and perception itself.

On the occasion of the exhibition, Lisson Gallery will publish a fully-illustrated catalogue featuring essays by American art historians and writers Nancy Princenthal and Pepe Karmel, available for purchase in early 2022.

About the artist

Joanna Pousette-Dart was born in New York, NY in 1947, where she still lives and works. She has a BA from Bennington College, Vermont (1968). Her work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Wiesbaden Museum, Wiesbaden, Germany; Locks Gallery, Philadelphia, PA, USA; Moti Hasson Gallery, New York, NY, USA; Texas Gallery, Houston, TX, USA; Charles Cowles Gallery, New York, NY, USA; and Susan Caldwell Gallery, New York, NY, USA, as well as a three-person exhibition at MoMA PS1 in New York. Pousette-Dart has been featured in group

exhibitions at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA; School of Visual Arts, New York, NY, USA; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, USA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA; Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA; Neuberger Museum, Purchase, NY, USA; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, USA; and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Santa Barbara, CA, USA, among others. Her work is held in public collections around the world including Albright Knox, Buffalo, NY, USA; Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA, USA; Brooklyn Museum of Art, Brooklyn, NY, USA; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA; Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY, USA; Indianapolis Museum of Art, Indianapolis, IN, USA; Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, NY, USA; Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR, USA; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY, USA. In 2021 she was selected to become a National Academician by The National Academy of Design in New York.

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York and one in Shanghai. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

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