

Carl Freedman Gallery  
29 Charlotte Road  
London EC2A 3PB  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7684 8890  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7684 8889

EDITH DEKYNDT

*Mexican Vanities*

25<sup>th</sup> January – 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013

Often using the simplest of means and with minimal intervention Edith Dekyndt creates art works which engage with common place forces of nature and scientific phenomena. Working in an area of two overlapping territories – physics and aesthetics – Dekyndt's methodologies do have something akin to scientific experiments. However she is less in the pursuit of decisive evidence or proving a theorem than opening herself up to unknown outcomes, and to failure as much as success. Similarly, she is less interested in the universal, and cold objective fact, than in how her various explorations can engender a more personal, emotional response.

All the many varied patterns and forms of *Mexican Vanities* and *X-Men* utilise the same physical phenomenon: capillary action. Silk-like material is stretched over a frame and then laid flat in a shallow tray of ink or other coloured liquid (coffee, wine). Left over night the liquid, of its own accord, seeps up and across the material. The resulting abstract images range from the almost monochrome, to an often occurring simple X, to more complex organic-looking structures. Cosmic gas clouds, bracken, coral are some of the associations they bring to mind, as well as the shadowy, shifting forms of early spirit photography. (A line could be perhaps traced back here to Dekyndt's earlier and informative interest in accidentally over-exposed photographs as well as her films of the apparitions of Polaroid photographs).

As a corollary to her many ventures and journeys (Dekyndt has travelled widely, often making context specific work) she has developed a body of drawings representing the persistence of time in a single location. Slowly and repetitively, pencil and ink marks are applied to paper or canvas until an area is completely filled. This simple, time consuming, repeated action of the hand transforms the underlying layer of material to create undulations and buckles giving the drawing the appearance of something fluid like a rippling curtain or wavy water. Meditative, and in some ways melancholic too, they are like monuments to the passing of time.

The two blanket pieces *Untitled (Golden Blanket L)* and *Untitled (Silver Blanket L)* have had gold and silver leaf applied to their surface. It's an unexpected alliance of materials, almost unnatural, with the softness and wooly texture of the blanket offering a strange contrast to the smooth, lustrous metal. The blankets, symbolic of warmth, comfort and safety are here raised up like abstract heraldic flags, quiet paeans for private gods.

Edith Dekyndt (b. Ypres, 1960) lives and works in Belgium. Studied at E.S.A.P.V.E., Mons, Belgium. Dekyndt has had numerous gallery and museum exhibitions including VidalCuglietta (Brussels), Karin Guenther (Hamburg), Meyer Riegger (Karlsruhe), Gregor Podnar (Ljubljana), Fri Art – Centre d'Art de Fribourg (Switzerland) and Witte de With (Rotterdam).

The gallery is open Tuesday – Saturday 12 – 6 pm, otherwise by appointment. For images and further information please contact the gallery on 020 7684 8890, or email [info@carlfreedman.com](mailto:info@carlfreedman.com)

Edith Dekyndt

List of Works (clockwise from entrance):

*Lessons of Darkness 07*

2012

Nails on cotton fabric

200 x 140 cm

*Mexican Vanities*

2012

Set of 13 canvases, coffee, wine, on satin and velvet

Canvas dimensions 18 x 13 cm, 24 x 18 cm, 35 x 30 cm, 30 x 25 cm, 40 x 30 cm

*Untitled, Silver Blanket L*

2013

Wool blanket with finest silver leaf

175 x 200 cm

*Untitled, Graphite 06*

2013

Linen canvas covered by graphite

110 x 180 cm

*Untitled, Golden Blanket L*

2012

Blanket with finest gold leaf

220 x 180 cm

*X-Men 36*

2012

Ink on velvet

24 x 18 cm

*X-Men 34*

2012

Ink on satin

24 x 18 cm

*X-Men 07*

2012

Ink on satin

40 x 30 cm

*X-Men 17*

2012

Ink on satin

40 x 30 cm

*X-Men 26*

2012

Ink on satin

24 x 18 cm

*X-Men 19*  
2012  
Ink on satin  
24 x 18 cm

*X-Men 18*  
2012  
Ink on satin  
24 x 18 cm

*X-Men 16*  
2012  
Ink on satin  
34 x 26 cm

*X-Men 22*  
2012  
Ink on satin  
24 x 18 cm

*X-Men 23*  
2012  
Ink on satin  
30 x 24 cm

*X-Men 30*  
2012  
Ink on satin  
30 x 24 cm