

OFFICE BAROQUE

DAVID DIAO
REF: BARNETT NEWMAN

27 FEBRUARY - 9 APRIL 2016

Bloemenhofplein 5 Place du Jardin aux Fleurs
1000 Brussels, Belgium

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www.officebaroque.com

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DAVID DIAO : REF: BARNETT NEWMAN

27 February - 9 April 2016

Opening preview : Friday 27 February, 18 – 20 h

Bloemenhofplein 5 Place du Jardin aux Fleurs
1000 Brussels

Office Baroque is honored to present David Diao's exhibition, Ref: Barnett Newman. Since 1990 Diao has painted twenty-eight works, and counting, related to seminal American Abstract Expressionist painter Barnett Newman (1905-1970). This will be the first gallery exhibition of work from this series, four of which in the FRAC Collection, were last exhibited in 2007 at le Quartier, the Center for Contemporary Art in Quimper, France. One of the paintings that FRAC acquired, the monumental Barnett Newman: Chronology of Work (1992), will be on view alongside new works on this subject.

Diao's sustained investigation of Newman's work represents a focused cross-section of the artist's ongoing interest in the ways that art history has been created, both through the art works that enter its canon, and the contexts—institutional, financial, discursive, and personal—that shape it. As such, many of the works in the exhibition take as their subject topics such as the catalogue of Newman's works, paintings that have been excluded from the artist's narrative for one reason or another, the graphic design of catalogues in which it has been featured, and the artist's biography. These many facets of Diao's over twenty-five year exploration of Newman in turn enable the viewer to consider these mechanics, not only of the apparatus of the art system, but also of both the aspirations and realities of abstract painting, of which Newman is a well-established father figure.

Diao also embeds his stance, at once both critical and reverential, at the level of the how the paintings are made, and in turn perceived. The grounds of these paintings—as is typical of his work—are tightly honed. Executed in layers of acrylic that Diao painstakingly lays on by hand with a knife, they are monochromatic and not expressive in any conventional sense, while also revealing the presence of the artist's hand, which is betrayed by the painterly incident that is evident upon close examination. The vagaries in this surface catches the light at different angles and eases the otherwise mechanical effect of the paintings, much like Newman's own matter-of-fact, but still luminous handling of paint.

This is sharply contrasted with the textual elements that Diao designs on the computer and has commercially printed in vinyl. This serves to highlight the kinds of dialectics that obtain in this history—between the hand- and machine-made, commercial production and artistic contexts. The individual ones of artists, such as Diao and Newman but also, by extension, the viewer, who encounters Newman's paintings at different historical moments, and contexts, including in that created for them by Diao's paintings.

The way that Diao's technique both allows the viewer entry and keeps him or her at bay instills a critical distance that enables the viewer to carefully consider the role not only of Newman, but of abstract art and its utopic aspirations, both historically and in the present.

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David Diao (1943, China) is one of the key figures in the history of conceptual painting during the second half of the twentieth century. Entering the New York art world in the late 1960s and throughout the 1970s, Diao first engaged, in his early work, in the complex position of painting in the aftermath of the Abstract Expressionists and the formalist critical debates that followed them, successfully pushing painting into conceptual territory while allowing him to deal with aesthetics, history as well as personal narrative in his painting. Diao's unique aesthetic sensibility—manifest in his palette and surfaces as well as his historical and biographical interests—has undergirded a long career that is now attracting renewed interest from major institutions, critics, and curators around the world. Diao recently had a retrospective at the UCCA Ullens Center for Contemporary Art in Beijing and has had exhibitions at the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield; Marta Cervera, Madrid; Paula Cooper, New York; Office Baroque, Brussels; Tanya Leighton, Berlin and Postmasters, New York. Recent group exhibitions include Whitney Biennial 2014, ICA Philadelphia and Tate St Ives.

The exhibition will open on February 27 and will run through 9 April at our downtown gallery on Bloemenhofplein.

Alex Bacon

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

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DRAWINGS		PAINTINGS		SCULPTURE		PRINTS		OTHER	
1944	16	1944		1944		1944		1944	
1945	14	1945	1	1945		1945		1945	
1946	19	1946	7	1946		1946		1946	
1947	2	1947	2	1947		1947		1947	
1948	3	1948	3	1948		1948		1948	
1949	3	1949	17	1949	1	1949		1949	
1950		1950	12	1950		1950		1950	
1951		1951	6	1951		1951		1951	
1952		1952	4	1952		1952		1952	
1953		1953	2	1953		1953		1953	
1954		1954	5	1954		1954		1954	
1955		1955	1	1955		1955		1955	
1956		1956		1956		1956		1956	
1957		1957		1957		1957		1957	
1958		1958	3	1958		1958		1958	
1959	3	1959		1959		1959		1959	
1960	22	1960	4	1960		1960	3	1960	
1961		1961	4	1961		1961		1961	
1962		1962	6	1962	1	1962	8	1962	
1963		1963	1	1963	1	1963	10	1963	1
1964		1964	5	1964		1964		1964	
1965		1965	5	1965	1	1965		1965	
1966		1966	4	1966	1	1966		1966	
1967		1967	6	1967		1967		1967	
1968		1968	4	1968	1	1968	18	1968	
1969	1	1969	4	1969	1	1969	2	1969	
1970		1970	4	1970		1970		1970	

David DIAO

Barnett Newman: Chronology of Work, 1992
 acrylic and vinyl on canvas
 244 x 457 cm

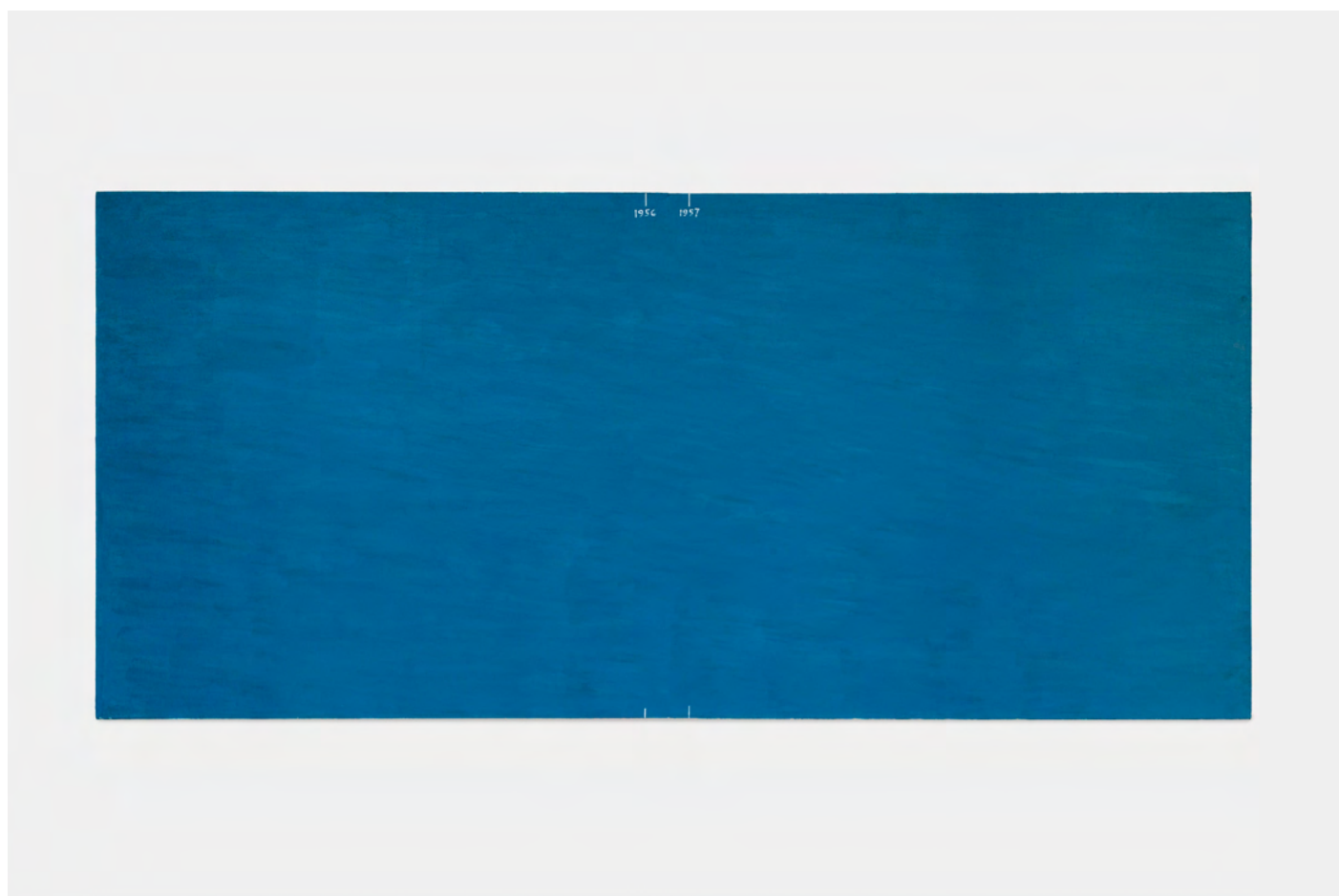
Courtesy of the artist and FRAC Bretagne, France

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

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David DIAO

Barnett Newman - His Gap Years, large blue, 2014
acrylic on canvas
140 x 307 cm

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

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David DIAO

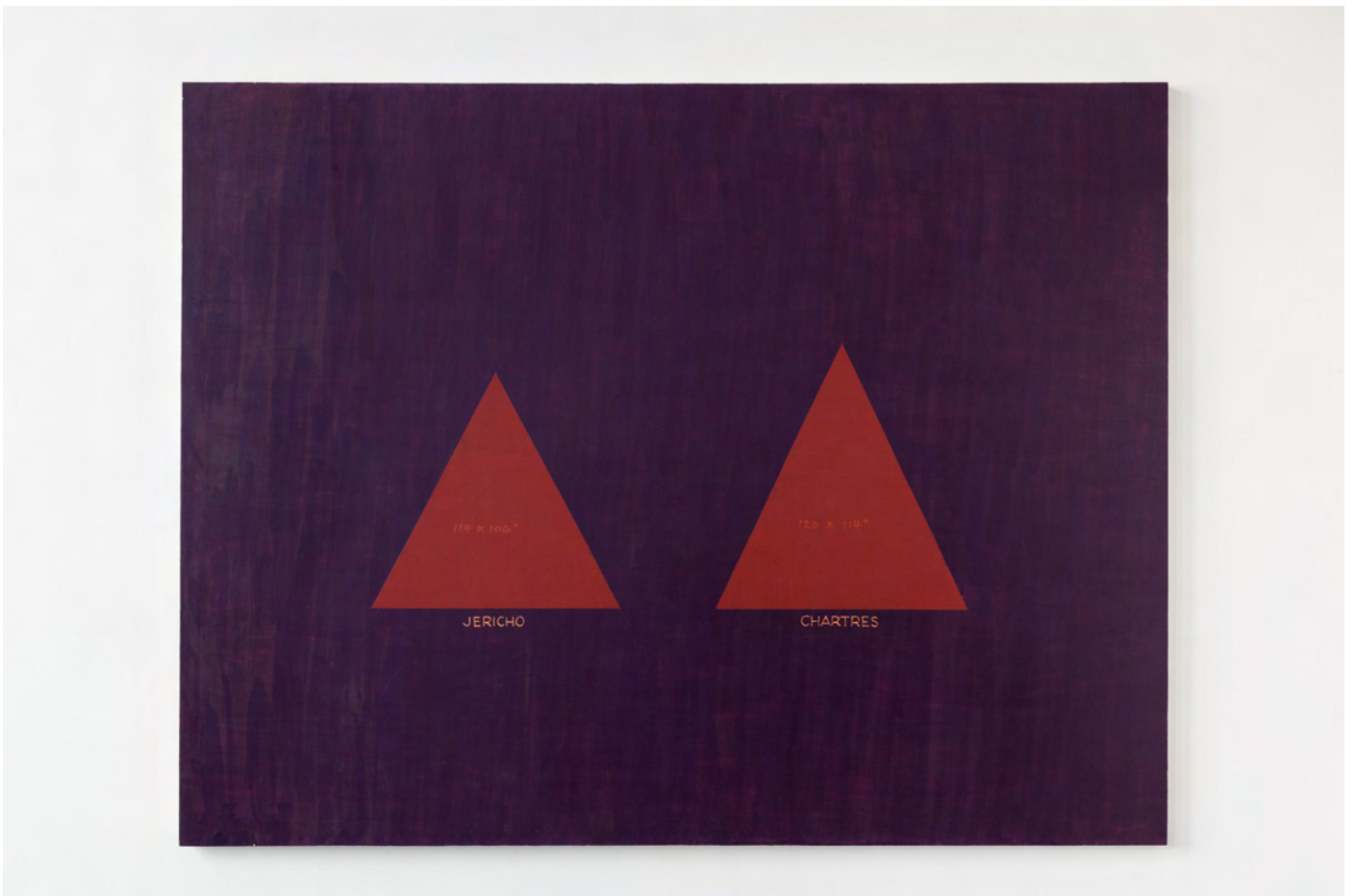
Barnett Newman: the Triangle Paintings 2, 2014
acrylic on canvas
178 x 102 cm

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

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David DIAO

Barnett Newman: His Triangle Paintings, 2011
acrylic on canvas
168 x 224 cm

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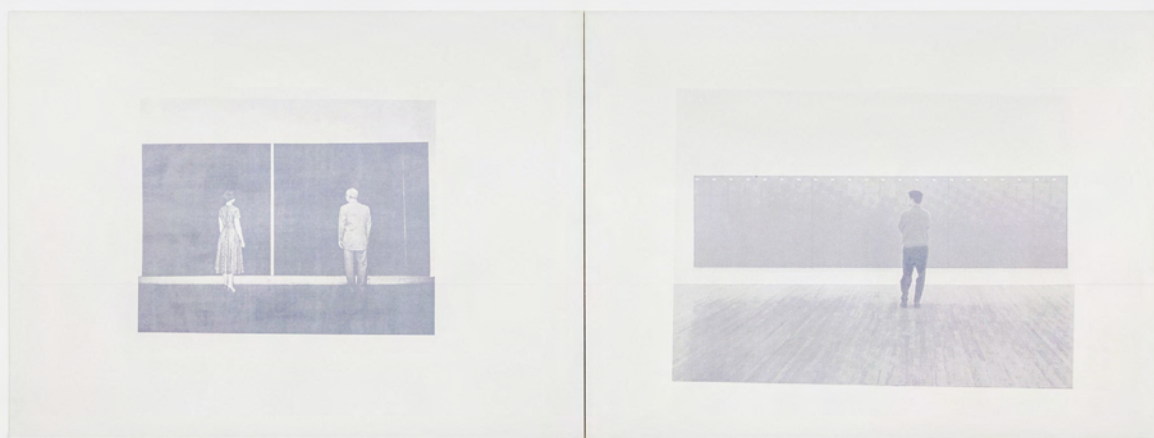
installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

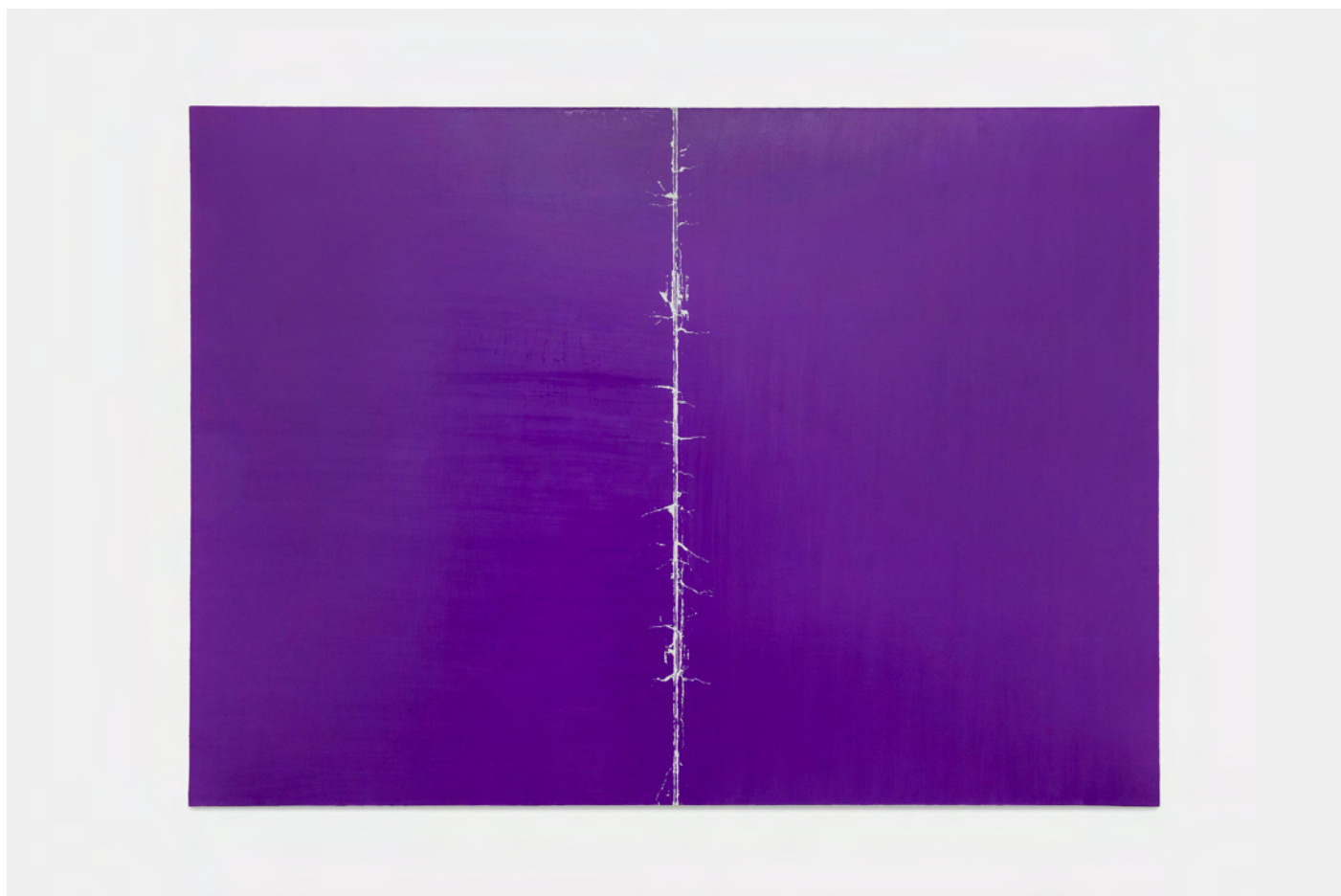
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David DIAO

Looking 1, 2000
acrylic and silkscreen on canvas
2 panels / 112 x 150 cm (each)

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David DIAO

Spine 2, 2013
acrylic and silkscreen on canvas
183 x 154 cm

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

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David DIAO

Barnett Newman: The Cut Up Painting, 2014
acrylic on canvas
153 x 127 cm



David DIAO

Barnett Newman - Which Way Up?, 2014
acrylic on canvas
135 x 177 cm

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installation view, David Diao, *Ref: Barnett Newman*
Office Baroque Gallery, Brussels, 2016

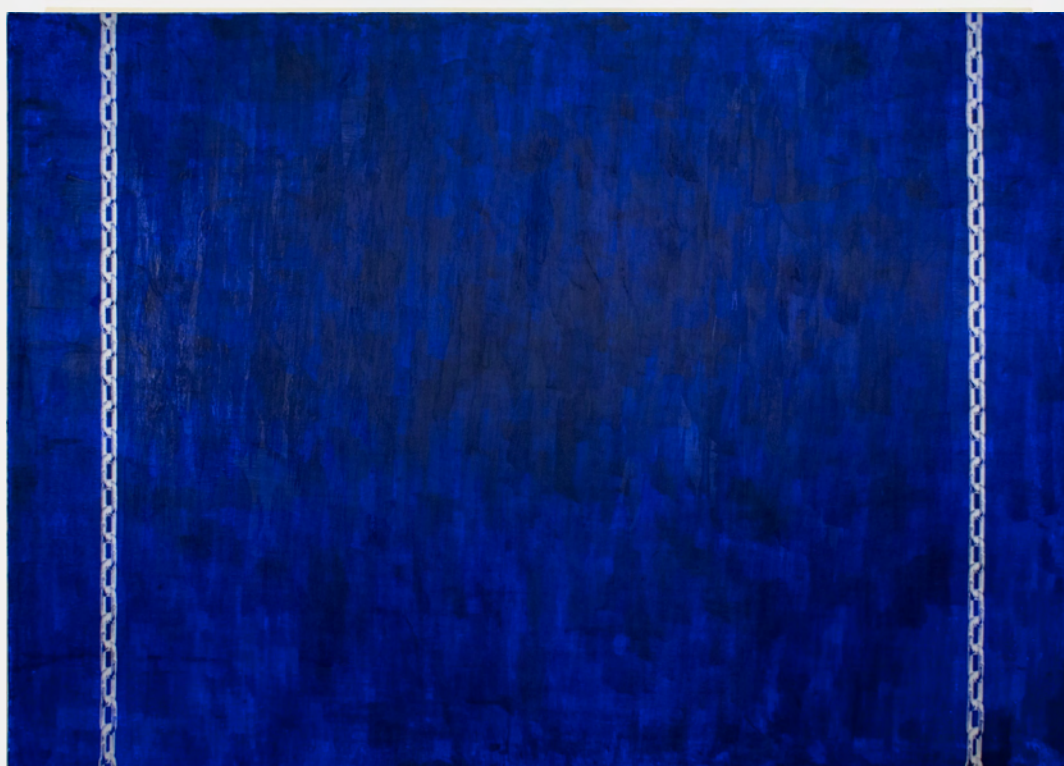
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David DIAO

Hanging by Chains, 2014
acrylic on canvas
127 x 274 cm

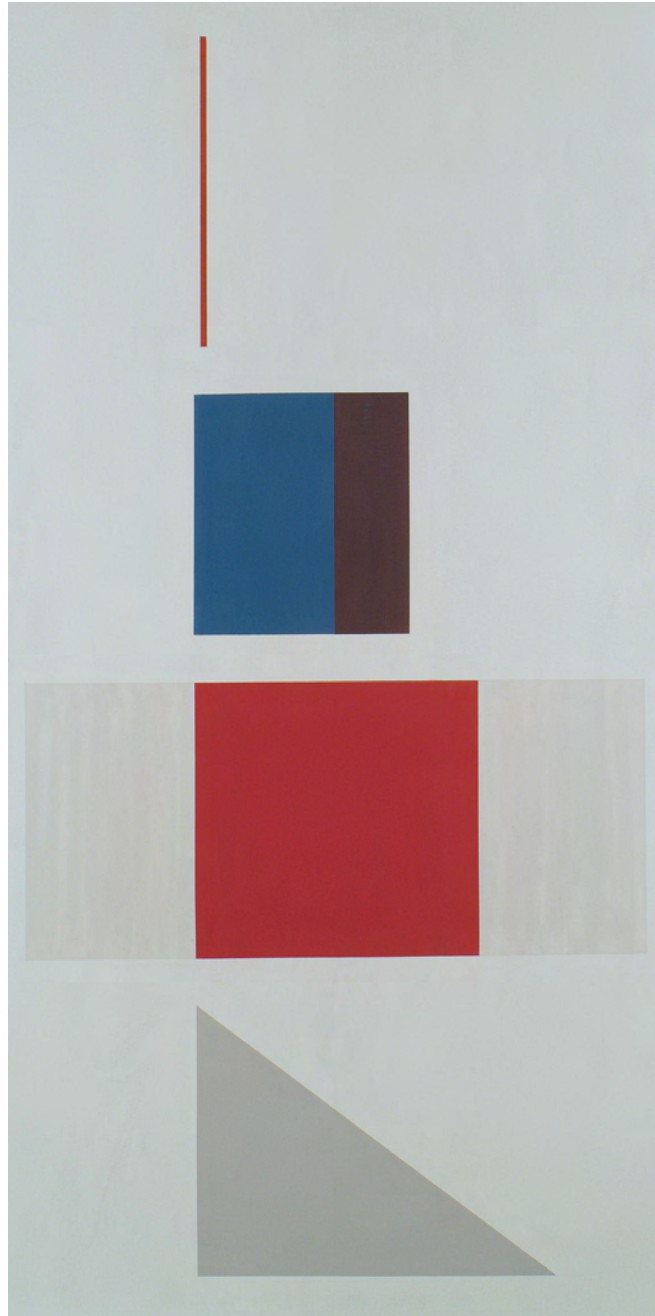
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David DIAO

Barnett Newman - Hanging by Chains (blue), 2014
acrylic on canvas
127 x 178 cm

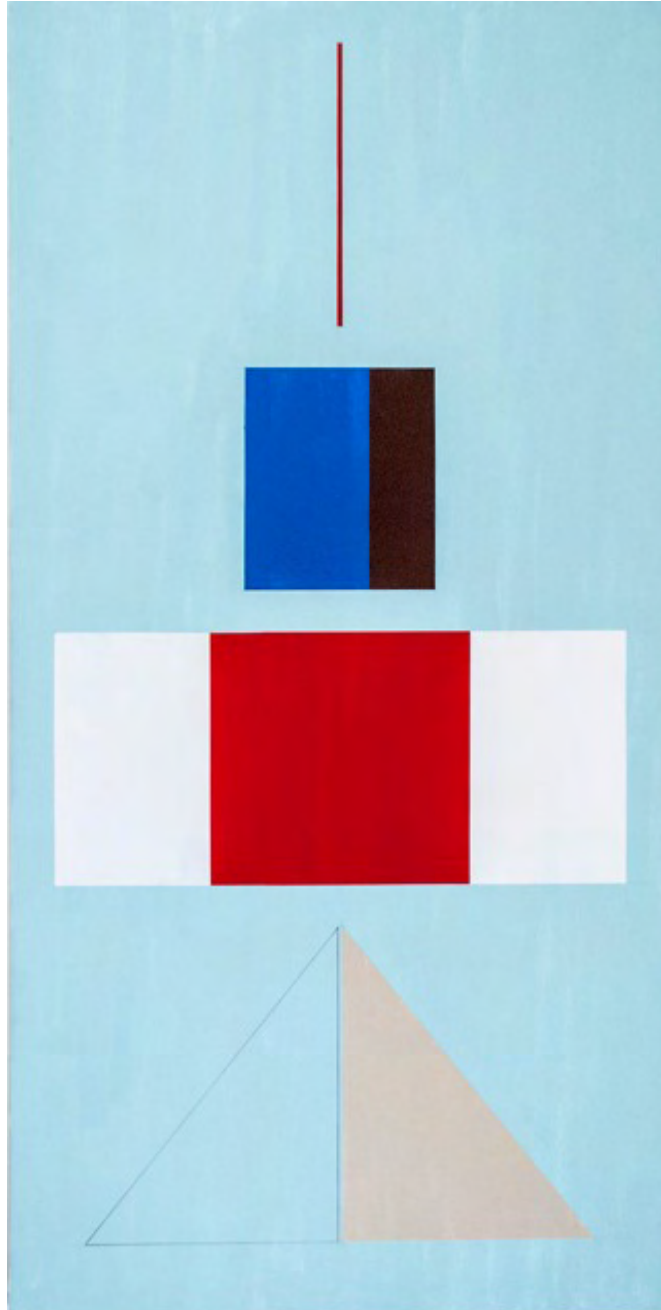
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David DIAO

Barnett Newman The Unfinished Paintings, 2013
acrylic on canvas
198,5 x 98

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David DIAO

BN: the Unfinished Paintings 2, 2014
acrylic on canvas
213 x 107 cm

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BIOGRAPHY

David Diao

Born 1943, Chengdu, Sichuan, China. Lives and works in New York, USA.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Ref: Barnett Newman, Office Baroque, Brussels, Belgium
2015 *David Diao*, Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Beijing, China
2014 *David Diao: Front to Back*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, USA
MeIkinov, Galeria Marta Cervera, Madrid, Spain
2013 *tmi*, Postmasters, New York, USA
2012 *David Diao: Franklin Street, 5th fl, 1974-2012* (curated by Pavel S. Pyś), 72 Franklin Street, New York, USA
2011 *David Diao: Da Hen Li House, I lived there until I was 6...*, MC Contemporary, Madrid
David Diao: Design Matters, Galeria Marta Cervera, Madrid, Spain
2010 *David Diao*, Office Baroque, Antwerp
2009 *I lived there until I was 6...*, Postmasters Gallery, New York
2008 *Best Laid Plans*, Tanya Leighton Gallery, Berlin
Da hen Li House, Courtyard Gallery, Beijing, China (catalog)
2005 *Demolished/At Risk*, Postmasters Gallery, New York
David Diao: Co To Jest Konstruktywizm & After, Galeria Arsenal, Bialystock and Galeria Klima Bochenska, Warsaw, Poland (catalog)
2000 Postmasters Gallery, New York
1999 Cherng Piin Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
1997 *Histoires Et Fictions, Peintures Recentes De David Diao*, La Criée and La Galerie du Tnb, Rennes, France
1995 *The Bitter Tea of General Yen*, Postmasters Gallery, New York
1994 Cherng Piin Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
1993 *Barnett Newman: 1 painting & 5 prints*, Postmasters Gallery, New York
1992 *Vendus*, École National d'Art de Dijon, France
1991 *Selections 1972-1991*, Cherng Piin Gallery, Taipei, Taiwan
...a real allegory, Postmasters Gallery, New York
1990 Claire Burrus Gallery, Paris
Het Kruithuis, Museum voor Hedendaagse Kunst, 's-Hertogenbosch, Holland and Provinciaal Museum voor Moderne Kunst, Oostende, Belgium
1989 Postmasters Gallery, New York
Galerie Joseph Dutertre, Rennes, France
Musée d'Art Moderne, Saint Etienne, France
1988 Galerie Westersingel 8, Rotterdam, Holland
Postmasters Gallery, New York (catalog)
1986 Postmasters Gallery, New York
1985 Postmasters Gallery, New York
1980 Rosa Esman Gallery, New York
1979 Arts Club of Chicago, Chicago
Tyler Gallery, Temple University, Elkins Park, PA
115 Spring Street, New York (Artist's Studio)
1975 Cuningham Ward Gallery, New York
1974 Jared Sable Gallery, Toronto, Canada
Cuningham Ward Gallery, New York
1973 Dunkelmann Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1972 Reese Palley Gallery, New York
1971 Dunkelmann Gallery, Toronto, Canada
1970 New Gallery, Cleveland, OH
Paula Cooper Gallery, New York
1969 Françoise Lambert Galleria, Milan, Italy
Paula Cooper Gallery, New York

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SELECTED 2 AND 3 PERSON EXHIBITIONS

- 2012 David Diao and Walid Raad, Paula Cooper Gallery, New York, USA
2011 *One Suitcase Per Person* (with Ken Lum & Hiram To, curated by Davina Lee),
1a Art Space, Hongkong
2005 *David Diao/Gang Zhao*, TZ Hanart Gallery, Hongkong
2003 *David Diao /Gang Zhao: at Mid Career*, Asian American Arts Centre, New York
1988 *Michael Corris, David Diao, Olivier Mosset*, Shafrazi Gallery, New York
1972 *David Diao and Cy Twombly*, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
1969 *Scenic Landmarks of New York presents a Scenic Landmark for Toronto, David
Diao and Brice Marden*, Carmen Lamanna Gallery, Toronto, Canada
David Diao and Peter Young, Leo Castelli Gallery, New York

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 *Museum Studies*, Berman Museum, Colledgeville, USA (forthcoming)
2014 *Some Artists*, Minus Space, Brooklyn, USA
ICA@50: Pleasing Artists and Publics Since 1963, Institute of Contemporary
Art, Philadelphia, USA
Whitney Biennial, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, USA
2013 *Swing State*, Jane Kim Gallery, New York, USA
2012 *Conceptual Abstraction*, Hunter College Gallery, New York, USA
OPEN::CLOSED (curated by David Howe), 601Artspace, New York, USA
Context Message, Zach Feuer Gallery, New York, USA
Richteriana, Greg Allen, David Diao, Rory Donaldson, Hasan Elahi, Fabian
Marcaccio, and Rafael Rozendaal, Postmasters Gallery, New York, USA
Painters Panting (Curated by Stuart Horodner), Atlanta Contemporary Art
Center, Atlanta, USA
The Annual: 2012, National Academy Museum, New York, USA
2011 *The Indiscipline of Painting: International abstraction from the 1960s to
now*, (curated by Daniel Sturgis, Martin Clark and Sarah Shalgosky), Tate St.
Ives, St. Ives, UK
Art/Système/Poésie, In Situ Gallery, Paris, France
The Horizon Behind Us, (curated by Michele D'Aurizio), The Kaleidoscope
Project Space
2010 *Lonely at the Top, Modern Dialect*, (curated by Win Van den Abbeele), Muhka,
Antwerp, Belgium
Matthew Brannon, Mathew Cerletty, David Diao, Daniel Sinsel, Office Baroque,
Antwerp, Belgium
2009 *Images & (Re)Presentations*, Magasin-CNAC, Grenoble, France
2007 *High Times, Hard Times: New York Painting 1967-1975*, National Academy
Museum, New York (traveling to numerous venues in the US and Europe)
2005 *Dreaming of A More Better Future*, Cleveland Institute of Art, Rehberger
Galleries, Cleveland, OH (curated by Saul Ostrow)
2nd Guangzhou Triennial, Guangdong Museum of Art, Guangzhou, China
Design for Living, Islip Art Museum, East Islip, NY
Les apparences sont souvent trompeuses, capc Musée D'Art Contemporain,
Bordeaux, France
2004 *About Painting*, Tang Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga
Springs, NY
Black Belt, Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica, CA
2003 *Black Belt*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York
Temporal Surfaces, Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, BC, Canada
2001 *The Sensibility of the 80s*, Thomas Ammann Fine Art, Zurich
2000 *Personal Space: the Domesticated Long Island Landscape*, The Parrish Museum,
Southampton, NY
1997 *After the Fall, Painting in New York Since 1970*, Snug Harbor Center for the
Arts, NY
1996 *Landscape Reclaimed*, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT

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- Thinking Print*, Museum of Modern Art, New York
Fractured Fairy Tales: Art in the Age of Categorical Disintegration, Duke University Museum of Art, Durham, NC
Time Wise, The Swiss Institute, New York
- 1995 *Raw*, Postmasters Gallery, New York
True Lies, Bernard Toale Gallery, Boston
On Target, Horodner Romley Gallery, New York
- 1994 *East/West, Cross Cultural Influences in Painting*, E.S. Vandam, New York
About Time, Testwall, TZ'Art & Co., New York
Crash, Thread Waxing Space, New York
Die Orte der Kunst, Sprengel Museum, Hannover, Germany
- 1992 *Gegen den Strich—Against the Grain*, Galerie Theuretzbacher, Vienna
C'Est Pas La Fin Du Monde—Une Vue Des Années 80, La Cour d'Or, Musée de Metz, France
Génériques, le Visuel et l'Écrit, Hôtel des Arts, Paris
Oeuvres Americaines, Autour de la Collection, FRAC, Dijon
Slow Art: Painting In New York Now, P.S.1 Museum, Queens, New York
Then & NOW, Philippe Staib Gallery, New York
Quotations, Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT
En Noir Et Blanc, Galerie du Tnb, Rennes, France
- 1991 *Conceptual Abstraction*, Sidney Janis Gallery, New York
Schwerelos, Grossen Orangerie, Charlottenberg Castle, Berlin
Le Consortium Collectione, Château d'Oiron, Oiron, France
Words & #s, Museum of Contemporary Art, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
Marta Cervera Gallery, New York
The Construction of Knowledge, Diane Brown Gallery, New York
PASTFUTURETENSE, Winnipeg Art Gallery and Vancouver Art Gallery, Vancouver, Canada (cat.)
- 1990 *The Charade of Mastery*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Lawrence Oliver Gallery, Philadelphia
All Quiet On The Western Front?, Espace Dieu, Paris
- 1989 *Une Autre Affaire*, Le Consortium, Dijon, France
Postmasters Gallery, New York
Jet Lag, Turon Travel, Inc., New York
Mind and Matter: New American Abstraction, USIA traveling exhibition to Asian capitals
Diagrams and Surrogates, Shea and Beker Gallery, New York
Diao, Dona, Goldstein, and Ladda, Krygier/Landau Contemporary Art, Los Angeles
- 1988 *Hybrid Nuetral: Mode of Abstraction and the Social*, traveling exhibition, Independent Curators, Inc., New York
Art at the End of the Social, Rooseum, Malmö, Sweden
Greg Kucera Gallery, Seattle, WA
Meaningful Geometry, Postmasters Gallery, New York
- 1987 *Generations of Geometry*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
Post-Abstract Abstraction, Aldrich Museum, Ridgefield, CT
Corris, Diao, IFP, Parrino, Le Consortium, Dijon, France
Avant-Garde in the 80's, Los Angeles County Museum of Art
- 1986 *Tableaux Abstraits*, Villa Arson, Centre National d'Art , Nice
Ultrasurd, S.L. Simpson Gallery, Toronto
The Use of Geometry in the 80's, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
Paravision II, Margo Leavin Gallery, Los Angeles
Red, Massimo Audiello Gallery, New York
Abstract Appropriations, Grey Art Gallery, New York University, New York
Spiritual America, CEPA, Buffalo, New York
- 1985 *Cult and Decorum*, Tibor de Nagy Gallery, New York
The Non-Objective World, Kamikaze Club, New York
- 1983 *The Terminal Show*, Brooklyn, New York
- 1982 *The Chinese Response: Paintings by Leading Overseas Artists*, Hong Kong Museum of Art, Hong Kong
- 1981 *Geometric Abstraction: A New Generation*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston
- 1979 *Mind Set: An Ongoing Involvement with the Rational Tradition*, John Weber Gallery, New York
- 1977 *The New York School: The State of the Art*, New York State Museum, Albany, NY

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- 1973 *Maler, Painters, Peintres, Prospect '73*, Stadtische Kunsthalle, Dusseldorf, Germany
Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
- 1972 *8 New York Painters*, Museum of Art, Berkeley, CA
- 1971 *The White Monochrome in 20th Century Art*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago
8 from New York, Gallery A, Sidney, Australia
- 1970 *Two Generations of Color Painting*, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia
Using Walls, Jewish Museum, New York
- 1969 *Annual Exhibition*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York
The Albert Pilavin Collection: 20th Century American Art, Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI
- 1967 Park Place Gallery, New York