

Zander Blom: 'New Works'

Opening: July 13, 2017, 7:00 pm

Exhibition Duration: from July 14 to September 2, 2017

Galerie Hans Mayer is pleased to announce its second solo exhibition by South African artist Zander Blom (\*1982 Pretoria).

Blom's sustained explorations into the developments of abstraction in twentieth century Modernist art movements have, until now, resulted in a diverse range of strictly non-figurative experiments in painting, most recently taking the form of geometric and minimalist abstraction. This exhibition of new work marks an important point of departure for Blom as the figurative elements from his drawing practices have entered the realm of his paintings for the first time, symbolizing a critical disengagement with pure abstraction.

At the center of this exhibition is a large format installation of pages torn from old Mondrian catalogues and defaced with Blom's drawings of dinosaurs, aliens and other childishly rebellious icons. Writing in Blom's second *catalogué raisonné*, Nicola Trezzi considers how these drawings allow one to really understand the complex and contradictory nature of his art: 'If Blom's paintings can be considered his 'representation', affirming his position, as a painter, as an artist, to the world, his drawings are his 'will', the thing behind the veil, the magmatic truth, the lava beneath our terrestrial crust.'

These iconoclastic scribbles, which animate Blom's Piet Mondrian drawings, have now moved across to his paintings, to deface his ordered geometric abstractions, and to question his own approach to painting. For Trezzi, this is a taste of Blom's 'bestial modernity', a desire 'to make works that take modernity to its ultimate state, which is, despite its premises, wild, animalistic, primal and instinctive'. These paintings of 'bestial modernity' are shown alongside his characteristic abstractions of oil on raw Belgian linen, with his signature technique of making painting that look digitally rendered.

Zander Blom was born in Pretoria in 1982 and currently lives in Cape Town. His first substantial series of work, *The Drain of Progress*, was exhibited in Johannesburg (2007), Cape Town (2008) and London (2009). His subsequent solo exhibitions took place at, among others, Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean (ICAIO), Mauritius (2017); the Galerie Hans Mayer, Düsseldorf (2015); the Savannah College of Art and Design in Savannah and Atlanta, Georgia, USA (2011-12); the Galerie van der Mieden in Antwerp; 5x6x9 in Berlin (2010). Group exhibitions include *A Painting Today* at Stevenson, Cape Town (2017); *Gestalt & Becoming* at Feldbusch Wiesner Rudolph, Berlin (2016); *Exchange* at the Galerie Hans Mayer, Düsseldorf (2016); *Home Truths: Domestic Interiors in South Africa* at the Iziko at the South African National Gallery, Cape Town (2016); *Material Matters: New Art from Africa* at the Institute of Contemporary Art Indian Ocean in Port Louis, Mauritius (2015); *Handle with Care!*, the ninth Ostrale International Exhibition of Contemporary Art during the Ostrale Centre in Dresden (2015), *The Evolution of Art 1830-2140*, Kuckei + Kuckei, Berlin (2013); *The Global Contemporary: Art worlds after 1989*, at ZKM, Karlsruhe (2011); *Ampersand*, Daimler Contemporary, Berlin (2010); and *ZA: Young art from South Africa* at the Palazzo Delle Papesse, Siena, Italy (2008).

In 2014 Blom received the third Jean-Francois Prat Prize for contemporary art in Paris. He is included in Phaidon's newest issue on contemporary painting: *Vitamin P3: New Perspectives in Painting* (2016), and his second catalogue raisonné, *Paintings Volume II* was published last December 2016 with an essay by Nicola Trezzi.