

HAUSER & WIRTH
SOMERSET

Press Release

Rita Ackermann Turning Air Blue

Hauser & Wirth Somerset
30 September 2017 – 1 January 2018
Opening: Friday 29 September, 6 – 8 pm



Hauser & Wirth Somerset is pleased to present 'Turning Air Blue', an exhibition of new works by Hungarian born, New York-based artist Rita Ackermann.

'Turning Air Blue' extends through two galleries and doubles as an organic continuation of Somerset's rural setting. The exhibition starts in the Rhoades gallery, which features a body of work titled *The Coronation and Massacre of Love*. The paintings here are large-scale compositions on canvas primed with chalkboard paint, on which washes of white chalk and green and blue pigments have been applied. These Abstract Expressionist-like works are reminiscent of actual chalkboards in a classroom, covered with unintentional erasures and marks, yet they have been conceptually executed by multiple deletions of figurative drawings and landscapes. By way of these gestures, the revenant outline of the erased drawings often emerges into the foreground. The final picture is a record of these movements.

The exhibition continues into the Bourgeois gallery, which comprises two bodies of work: *Turning Air Blue* and *Nudes*. The paintings titled *Turning Air Blue* are large-scale pigment paintings on canvas where translucent figures suggest a feminine shape. These works derive from the *Fire by Days* series – paintings inspired by accident being the true enemy of intention – which formed Ackermann's introductory exhibition at Hauser & Wirth, London, in 2012. The palette of these new works is rendered by flesh tones shading into blue. The large paintings have an airy lightness about them, contrasting with the much smaller *Nudes*. While these smaller framed oils bear a similar pigmentation, they are painted more thickly to evoke the physicality of the female body.

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About the Artist

Rita Ackermann was born in 1968 in Budapest, Hungary. She currently lives and works in New York NY. Ackermann's recent solo exhibitions include 'KLINE RAPE', Hauser & Wirth New York, 22nd Street (2016 – 2017), 'The Aesthetic of Disappearance' at Malmö Konsthalle, Malmo, Sweden (2016); 'MEDITATION ON VIOLENCE-HAIRWASH' at Sammlung Friedrichshof, Burgenland, Austria and Sammlung Friedrichshof Stadtraum, Vienna, Austria (2014); 'Negative Muscle', Hauser & Wirth New York, 69th Street (2013); 'Fire by Days', Hauser & Wirth London, Piccadilly (2012); the Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami FL (2012); 'Bakos', Ludwig Museum, Budapest, Hungary (2011); and 'Rita Ackermann and Harmony Korine: ShadowFux', Swiss Institute, New York NY (2010).

Ackermann's work has also featured in numerous group presentations 'Extreme Drawing: Ballpoint Pen Drawing Since 1950' The Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield CT, (2013); 'Pivot Points: 15 Years and Counting', MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami FL (2013); 'Looking at Music: 3.0', Museum of Modern Art, New York NY (2011); 'Inaugural Exhibition', New Jersey Museum of Contemporary Art, New York NY (2010); 'Street and Studio', Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna, Austria (2010) and 'Whitney Biennial', Whitney Museum of American Art, New York NY (2008).

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Gallery hours:

Tuesday – Sunday
10 am – 5 pm (March – October)
10 am – 4 pm (November – February)

www.hauserwirthsomerset.com

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Rita Ackermann
Coronation of Love and Massacre I
2017
Acrylic, spray paint, pigment and chalk on
canvas
360.7 x 271.8 cm / 142 x 107 in

Rita Ackermann
Turning Air Blue II
2017
Oil and pigment on canvas
73.7 x 53.3 cm / 29 x 21 in

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artist and Hauser & Wirth