

GLADSTONE GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Magnus Plessen

515 West 24th Street

February 15 - March 15, 2012

Opening Tuesday, February 14, 6 – 8pm

Gladstone Gallery is pleased to announce our fourth solo exhibition of new paintings by Magnus Plessen. For over a decade, Plessen has been known for his subtle investigations into the phenomenological structure of vision, tactility, and form that are the foundation of his painting practice. Looking to the immediate material properties of paint and the two-dimensional surface, Plessen constructs his compositions by systematically adding and subtracting sections of paint to create a shifting field of positive and negative space, revealing not only the artist's process of mark making, but also the ghostly presence of what has been removed. Plessen's imagery is determinedly generalized, often showing just a suggestion of a face, bottle, or hand. These motifs emerge from a fractal landscape of lines, shapes, and colors to provide a palpable tension between abstraction and representation.

This exhibition brings together two new series of large-scale paintings that together continue to expand upon Plessen's formal strategies. Returning to the female form, the first set of works present the image of a pregnant woman. In these paintings, the figures are positioned frontally, facing the viewer in a collage-like assemblage of fragmented body parts, creating a feeling of spatial flatness while celebrating the subject's physical presence.

In the second body of work, Plessen adopts the notion of rotation as an analogy for building movement and momentum within the structure of each painting. Plessen employs this as an organizational principle, invoking a visual sense of rotation by positioning the figure of a head at the center of each canvas to create a generative force of action around which the painting's elements are arranged. Unlike the directness of the female figure, these works eschew specific subject matter and instead build upon an internal logic of rhythm, motion, and temporality. Plessen explains:

These paintings take less notice of the presence of the viewer than earlier works. Imagine a theater performance being in full blast as you enter the space of the theater to take your seat. This indifference to me or possibly the onlooker, and a feeling of unfamiliarity of the depicted heads and body parts, give the rotation paintings a quality of coming from a long distance to my mind.

While Plessen's color values have previously remained distinctly muted, both new series playfully engage a palette of bright pinks, blues, and yellows, which further punctuate the artist's depth of space as well as a newly explored painterly light. Through these works, Plessen establishes a vibrant exchange between his rigorous formal structures, developed sense of materiality, and the ever-unfolding experience of viewing a painting.

For further information please contact Caroline Luce

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12 Rue du Grand Cerf, Brussels

R. H. QUAYTMAN

"Point de Gaze, Chapter 23"

January 20 – March 3

Brussels Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Friday, 10am-6pm, Sat 12pm-6pm

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MAGNUS PLESSEN

Born 1967 in Hamburg
Lives and works in Berlin

Selected Exhibitions

- 2012 Magnus Plessen, Gladstone Gallery, New York
- 2010 Magnus Plessen, Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich
- 2009 Magnus Plessen, Gladstone Gallery, New York
- 2008 "You Dig the Tunnel, I'll Hide the Soil," White Cube, London
"Magnus Plessen, Freizeit," Konrad Fischer Galerie, Berlin (Solo)
- 2007 Magnus Plessen, Gladstone Gallery, New York (Solo)
"Imagination Becomes Reality," Center for Art and Media, Karlsruhe
- 2006 "Imagination Becomes Reality," Sammlung Goetz, Munich
"Imagens Em Pintura," Museu Serralves, Porto
"Infinite Painting: Contemporary Painting and Global Realism," Villa Manin Centro d'Arte Contemporanea, Codroipo
"The Cartin Collection: Subject, Contemporary Portraiture," Lyman Allyn Art Museum, New London, Connecticut
- 2005 "Focus: Magnus von Plessen," Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago
"Direct Painting," Kunsthalle, Mannheim, Mannheim
"For Immediate Release," Gladstone Gallery, New York (Solo)
"Carlo Borttigelli – Magnus von Plessen," Kunstparterre, Munich
- 2004 "Kristin Baker/Magnus von Plessen," Centre Pompidou, Paris
Magnus Plessen, Konrad Fischer Galerie, Düsseldorf (Solo)
- 2003 "Clandestine," curated by Francesco Bonami, 50th International Exhibition of Visual Arts of La Biennale di Venezia Arsenale section, Venice
Mai 36 Galerie, Zurich (Solo)
- 2002 "Malerei," Inaugural exhibition - K 21, Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf (Solo)
"Recent Paintings," PS1, New York (Solo)
- 2001 Neues Kunstmuseum, Lucerne (Solo)