

Galerie Buchholz

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Sergej Jensen

Fabric Paintings

8 November 2018
– 12 January 2019

Galerie Buchholz is pleased to present the second solo exhibition by Sergej Jensen at our New York gallery, introducing a new group of work entitled “Fabric Paintings.”

Sergej Jensen’s first well-known works from the early 2000s seemed to eschew the additive application of medium to surface, and instead were comprised of found textiles stitched and sewn together to form abstractions, often with only subtly applied elements or subtractive materials such as bleach. They foregrounded the material qualities of the textiles themselves: their texture, weave, fibrousness, and their warp and weft, as well as residual marks accumulated through their circulation. While at first glance visually sparse, even evacuated, closer inspection of their surfaces reveals a subtle, incidental opulence, like a deliberately uncolored, unfun psychedelia.

In his new work for this exhibition, Jensen has returned to a mode of abstraction through works consisting of sewn-together fabrics, with a distinct monochromatic application of paint. This time, the fabrics that he uses (and that he emphatically designates with the title of the exhibition) are of a different order: far from the muted linens and muslins of his early pieces, the new textiles are extreme in their tactility and appearance, frequently featuring technical, dazzling elements such as metallic fibers and sequins, giving their surfaces an optically iridescent quality. In addition to the intricacy of the textiles themselves, Jensen has wrapped and layered textiles upon one another, allowing for the interplay of weaves and textures, and the passage and filtering of light. Alongside the layering, paint is applied to set tones and luminosity; certain sections of textiles are overpainted, seemingly muting the textiles’ extreme reflective qualities with matte hues. The resulting works have a remote, minimal, yet electric effect, presenting themselves as opaque even if translucent, with a material and cognitive shimmer.

Sergej Jensen (born 1973, Maglegaard, Denmark) lives and works in New York. Recent solo exhibitions include Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Baden-Baden (2017, catalogue forthcoming); Statens Museum of Kunst, Copenhagen (2016); Berlinische Galerie, Berlin (2013); MoMA P.S.1, New York (2011); Portikus, Frankfurt (2010); Aspen Art Museum, Aspen (2010); KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (2009); Pinakothek der Moderne, Munich (2008); Malmö Konsthall, Malmö (2008); and Kunsthalle Bergen, Bergen (2008). His work is in the collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Guggenheim Museum, New York; Tate Modern, London; Fondation Beyeler, Basel; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; and the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.