bernard jacobson gallery

William Tillyer

The Wildenstein Hermitage and Other Paintings

10th March - 13th April 2017

Bernard Jacobson Gallery is delighted to present an exhibition of works by William Tillyer. The professional relationship between Bernard Jacobson and the artist will serve as backdrop to the selection of pieces, representing a condensed exploration of the themes, graphic elements and inspirations behind one of the greatest British artists, in occasion of the writing of the artist's biography by Jacobson.

William Tillyer is a celebrated British painter and watercolourist (Hebrus series, 2016), whose work has been shown frequently in London and New York since the 1970s. Born in 1938 in Middlesbrough, Tillyer studied painting at Middlesbrough College of Art, before moving on to the Slade School of Art, in London. He began to make radically experimental work, which raised questions about the relationship of art to the world, and of man to nature. Such tension, between the Artificial and the Real is developed in the characteristic elements of the natural landscape and the man-built structures, the striking geometry of colours and the evolving feature of the lattice/grid. From the student romanticism of Beach and Sea Seaton Carew (1956), to the powerful three-dimensionality of Relentless 4 (2016), the selection wishes to bring to the viewer the complexity and variety in the artist's ever-changing practice.

He has been invited to work internationally, including in Cadiz, Spain; Tobago, Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; Cill Rialaig Project, Co. Kerry, Ireland; Melbourne, Australia, and was a visiting professor at Brown University, USA; Bath Academy of Art; and the Chelsea School of Art. Tillyer has exhibited internationally, and his work can be found in the collections of major institutions including the Arts Council of Great Britain; the Brooklyn Art Museum, New York; Fort Worth Art Museum, Texas; Middlesbrough Art Gallery; MOMA, New York; The Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth; Tate Gallery, London; and the Victoria & Albert Museum.

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