

# bernard jacobson gallery

## Marc Vaux, New Paintings Triptychs and Ovals

19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2011

Bernard Jacobson Gallery is proud to announce *New Paintings: Triptychs and Ovals* by renowned British artist Marc Vaux.

Marc Vaux first came to prominence in 1960 when his work was included in the landmark exhibition *Situation* held in London. Since then Vaux has developed his non-figurative painting style exploring a range of different materials and media from drawing and painting to three-dimensional reliefs and sculpture.

This exhibition presents ten new works including two large-scale triptychs and four ovals of varying sizes, as well as a selection of works in coloured pencil on paper. The wall-mounted constructions have a hard-edged, industrial feel about them. They are made from mass produced anodised aluminium section and MDF boards which are painted with commercial cellulose spray paints, of a type commonly used in car manufacture until the 1990s, and meticulously buffed to a high-sheen finish.

The raised aluminium frames are bolted to the polished boards, their trapezoid shapes adding a sense of movement and depth. This framing device has a dual function; it encloses an inner white field and separates the outer colour fields. In addition, they are lined with narrow strips of brightly coloured beading, their colour reflecting inwards across the central neutral enclosure.

Colour, and the effects of colour as light, has long been an important concern for the artist; as has the exploration of contrasts: hard and soft shapes, gesture and structure, closed and open spaces.

Vaux's recent works follow on from a working practice that is now some thirty years in the making and yet they also mark a new departure, namely in their disruption of horizontality. The tilted trapezoid and oval are new formats for the artists and add movement and dynamism. The shift away from the horizontal line is designed to create a sense of the works floating – to imbue a sense of weightlessness and thus deepen an affinity between the work itself and the immaterial subject of colour as light to which the artist is devoted.

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## **MARC VAUX AT TATE BRITAIN**

Coinciding with our exhibition, Tate Britain is currently presenting a special display of Marc Vaux's work in room 11. This one-room retrospective features paintings from 1960 to 2004 and offers a rare opportunity to survey the career of this distinguished artist.

Born in Swindon, Wiltshire in 1932, Vaux attended the Swindon School of Art, before completing his art studies at the Slade School of Art in 1960. He also taught art for many years, becoming Head of Painting at Central St. Martin's College of Art and Design, London, before resigning from teaching in 1989 to concentrate on his own work. Marc Vaux has exhibited widely in the UK and abroad and his work is represented in many public collections including Tate, London; Arts Council of Great Britain; Victoria and Albert Museum; City Art Gallery, Leeds; York Art Gallery; and Folkwang Museum, Essen, Germany.

'Marc Vaux: New Paintings: Triptychs and Ovals', published on the occasion of the exhibition, will be available from the 19th November 2010. The publication includes an essay by Ben Weidel-Kaufmann.