

bernard jacobson gallery

Pia Fries

Painted Tongues

11th October – 10th November 2007

Pia Fries is the 'feisty little girl' of painting according to Paul Good in his essay in the catalogue for Fries' show at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur. By this he means that she is not weighed down by the traditions and strictures laid down by past generations of noble painters but is free to enjoy the act of painting and the stuff of paint without restriction in her works. Using a variety of implements, some traditional painting tools and others more often found in the kitchen, Fries teases and twists paint to its very limit. She paints on white plywood support structures upon which she often screen-prints images of paint. Fries builds up a spacious yet complex interweaving of paint, colour, texture and levels of reality.

For this exhibition the artist will exhibit a frieze of horizontal paintings in the newly refurbished downstairs gallery and large new paintings in the upstairs gallery. Alongside these works we will be showing a set of four newly published aquatints, printed and published by the Crown Point Press, San Francisco.

Pia Fries was the subject of a retrospective exhibition at the Kunstmuseum Winterthur, Switzerland this spring. The exhibition traveled to the Joseph Albers Museum Bottrop Germany, where it is open until the 28th October.

Born in 1955 in Switzerland, Fries originally studied sculpture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Lucerne. Later she studied painting under Gerhard Richter at the Kunstakademie in Düsseldorf from 1980 to 86 and now lives and works in Düsseldorf.

Fries has shown extensively in Europe and the United States.