

CIRCLE CULTURE

GALLERY

KATRIN FRIDRIKS

For more than a decade, Katrin Fridriks has been experimenting with the constitutive elements of painting, that is the quality of the paint, its support, as well as a range of unconventional painting techniques, to attain her distinct and outstanding style. It is the unique interplay between the medium, the timing and the artists' body moving around a canvas on the floor that encompasses the fluid and organic quality of her paintings. Although the artist is best known for large-scale paintings, her truly contemporary artistic practice originates in an early engagement with Performance Art ("Dust of Galaxy", 2002) and Land Art ("Energy Flow", 2004), but also her studies of Japanese calligraphy, which were the starting point for her long-term research of the medium painting. Learning the technique of executing a letter in one brush stroke only (as opposed to built-up lettering in Latin script), but most notably her experience of working in real space and time, all influenced what today has become a choreographical painting process. The most prominent predecessor of working on a canvas placed directly on the floor to apply paint by physically moving around it, is the American abstract expressionist Jackson Pollock. Ensuing from this seminal practice, Fridriks has developed her genuinely own technique: By transferring the movement and speed of her gestures into the paint, she achieves to capture the very act of painting, and thereby turns the picture itself into an event. This sensation of witnessing the painting as happening before one's eyes, rather than viewing a conventional self-contained image, is essential for the engaging experiences that Fridriks provides the beholder with. Before consciously contemplating the artwork, the viewer is already involved sensuously.

Her paintings are thus best described as an occurrence, rather than a static image: The moment of eruption, liquid matter gushing from deep inside, small particles hurtling through the air, dripping all over the intense blue, red or silvery surface, all solid is liquefied and each layer set in motion. This depiction of her abstract painting furthermore alludes to natural occurrences, such as the scene of the outburst of a geyser in her home country, Iceland. The unique and pristine landscape of the geologically active island has been an enormous influence on her work and life. By means of her distinct painting technique, Fridriks captures the force and the sublime of its nature, without depicting an event or the scenery, as such. Although applied on a canvas, the paint only seems to have come to a temporary halt, before continuing to swirl and splash over the edges of the canvas – and into the space of the beholder. Rather than capturing a moment in time, her technique evokes a feeling of movement and energy that, on an abstract level, directly relates to the origin of the evolution of the universe.

In order to extend this experience even further, Fridriks began to work on installations: Initially, as in the ensemble "Molecular Spaces" (2008), in the format of enclosed boxes that focus on translating the pictorial device of perspective into a three-dimensional space, she then started to expand the scope into real space. As time and space are inextricably entangled within human experience, they form the basis of our everyday life. This process of incorporating space and time also involved the expansion of the size and shape of the canvases, and thus put an emphasis on Fridriks' architectural approach towards the medium ("Riding Awareness", 2014). For it is not only the natural world that inspires her practice, but also her deep interest in man-made structures and its relation to nature.

This conceptual development culminates in her first all-encompassing installation that extends visually into the entire gallery space: "Perception of the Stendhal Syndrome" (2014) comprises one of her large-scale black-and-white paintings from the series "Stendhal Syndrome" or "Gene&Ethics" and a custom-made, sculptural magnifying glass, which is hung from the ceiling at distance to the canvas. The arrangement provides an experience that at the same time allows for a macro-perspective and micro-perspective on the painting, thereby revealing the mastery of Fridriks' skills. Every slightest move will generate an entirely new image and each visitor has a completely unique experience when approaching the work, as it manages to temporarily suspend the laws of our space-time.

Today, Katrin Fridriks (*1974 in Reykjavik) lives and works in Luxembourg. Internationally exhibited, she has received high-profile grants from the Ministry of Culture, Higher Education & Research in Luxembourg in 2009, the French government for the Olympic Stadium of Nîmes in 2007, and among others the Goss-Michael Foundation for the MTV Re-define project in 2011 and 2014, Ralph Lauren Foundation in 2010, the Biennial of Liverpool and the Icelandic Art Center in 2008. The title of her latest exhibition at Circle Culture Gallery (November 2014 – February 2015) derives from her installation "Perception of the Stendhal Syndrome". Fridriks has been invited to exhibit at the Global Art Affairs Foundation at Palazzo Bembo Venice in the context of the Biennale di Venezia 2015.

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

2018

Solo Show, Circle Culture, Berlin

Flying Awareness, Solo Show, Lazarides, London

YIA Art Fair, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris

2017

Forces of Nature, Solo Show, Dellupi Gallery, Milan

MTV «Re:define» Phillips, Museum Contemporary Dallas, Dallas

Little Sun – Solar Panel Collection, Solar Kids School Program, Rwanda, exhibition and charity auction, Berlin

Summer Group Show, Pascal Janssens Gallery, Ghent

Das DaSein, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Artstage Fair, Singapore

Station F, Site-Specific Project, Wilmotte Associés, Paris

Brafa, Brussels

COME ALIVE!, Circle Culture Gallery, Hamburg

India Art Fair, Solo Show LTD gallery, New Delhi

Avant Arte, New Print Release, Amsterdam

2013

Verona Art Fair, Dellupi Gallery, Verona

POTSE 68., Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Brutal, Lazarides Gallery @ 180 the Strand, London

2016

Abstract Masters, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris

Fresh Paint, Lazarides Gallery, London

Macrocosm, Solo Show, Lazarides Gallery, London

Ephemeral, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Still Here, A Decade Of Lazarides, Lazarides Gallery, London

Indian Art Fair, Ltd Gallery Private Collection, New Delhi

Artcurial, Urban & Contemporary Art, Paris

2015

NEW WAVE, Solo Show, Circle Culture Gallery, Hamburg

Brafa, Helene Bailly Gallery, Brussels

Radiate, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Lollipops & Icecreams, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris

GAA Foundation – Palazzo Bembo – in context of the Venice Biennale

2012

Just Painted (Kjarvalsstaðir), Reykjavik Art Museum, Reykjavik

Improvisation & Composition, Helene Bailly Gallery, Paris

Space Opening, Ltd Gallery, Paris

2014

Stendhal Syndrome, Solo Show, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Color, Charles Bank Gallery, Paris

ARTVIENNA, Art Fair, Circle Culture Gallery, Vienna

Design Days, Stilwerk Design Gallery, Dubai

ArtInternational Istanbul, Art Fair, Circle Culture Gallery, Istanbul

Escape the golden cage, Vienna

SF artMRKT fair, LeBasse projects, San Francisco

The 20th century Masterpieces, Seoul Arts Center, Seoul

New Space Opening, Circle Culture Gallery, Hamburg

Piasa Auction, Art Contemporain, Paris

Space – Form, Breeze Block Gallery, Portland

The Burlington Social Club, Circle Culture Gallery, London

Prêt à Dîner, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Art Urbain Contemporain, Artcurial Auction, Paris

2011

Chrome, Solo Show, Le Feuvre Gallery, Paris

The Urban Artist, Circleculture Gallery at Soho House, Berlin

Leak of Information, Solo Show, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Mothernature, Solo Show, Pascal Janssens Gallery, Ghent

The Urban Artist, Circleculture Gallery, Hamburg

40 ans de pressionnisme, Forum Grimaldi, Monaco

Inauguration, Vicky David Gallery, New York

The future is not what it used to be, Le Basse Gallery, Los Angeles

Salon der Gegenwart, Circle Culture Gallery, Hamburg

The Border Contemporary Art Zone Lineart, Solo Show, Pascal Janssens Gallery, Ghent

Paperworks, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

MTV, Gross-Michael Foundation, Dallas,

Give, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Spectra I, Future Tense, London

The old Casino, Circle Culture Gallery, Hamburg

2010

Graffiti, Pierre Bergé Auction & AD Gallizia, Palais de Tokyo, Paris

No such thing as good painting, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Angélus, Barbizon

Salon du Cercle de la Culture, Circle Culture Gallery, Berlin

Inauguration, Contemporary Art Center, Épinal

Crayons, Solo Show, Le Feuvre Gallery, Paris

Volta 6 - Art Basel, Circle Culture Gallery at Art Basel, Basel

Marrakesh Art Fair, Marrakesh

Moniker Art Fair, Solo Show, London

Art Story by Ralph Lauren, Phillips de Pury, London

2009

Tag & Graff, Grand Palais, Paris

Summer Exhibition, Le Feuvre Gallery, Paris
CAL Salon, Luxembourg

Salon du Collectionneur Bailly Contemporian, Paris

The Show, curated by Jérémy Rocher, Paris