

For Immediate Release

giving way paintings for london angela lyn

curated by max koss

the gallery in cork street

5 september to 15 september 2012, 11am to 7pm daily

opening reception tuesday, 4 september 2012, 6 to 9pm

Curated by Max Koss, giving way is a selection of recent paintings, in particular a series of Angela Lyn's signature large-scale landscapes, which present a unique fusion of western and eastern traditions. In this show, Lyn claims painting's continued relevance by putting forth a poetics of painting standing in radical contrast to the totalizing claims of the ever faster, technologized image culture of urban life. Her work guides its viewers into a sensuous dialogue with urban life's juxtapositions and fragility through a journey of introspective reflection and caring serenity.

The work on view extends Lyn's exploration of the relationship between time, place and subjectivity but also reveals the fragility of the process of painting and productively engages its inherent instabilities. Lyn's landscapes, worked from photographs taken in the artist's immediate surroundings in Ticino, Switzerland, transcend the local and suggest a universal topography. Marco Franciulli, Director of Art Museums in Lugano, where Lyn lives and works, has said about her landscapes: "One recalls the myth of the romantic landscape. However, it is precisely within this subtle equilibrium [of focus and openness], between the infinite of nature, as suggested in the landscape, and an anchorage to the earthly, as articulated in the careful attention to detail, that Angela Lyn manifests her contemporary sensibility."

Lyn's labor-intensive images are built by thin layers of oil paint superimposed on each other, with the lighter colors being applied first, and darker tones added subsequently. This technique allows her to create remarkable effects of light and luminosity, creating a strong sense of expansiveness, which stands in marked contrast to the otherwise flat appearance of the painted surface. It is the tension between the minute brushstrokes and the veil-like nature of the finished paintings that brings to the fore Lyn's quest for an almost minimal, yet metaphysical painting.

The same generosity with which Lyn imbues the landscapes, she also invests in the other canvases in the show, in which she zooms in on details, be they small assemblies of objects or parts of trees. Here Lyn embraces a more open yet subtly cautious figurative mode, and her titles hint at the storylines behind her work.

Throughout, Lyn keeps the figurative and the abstract, the lyrical and the metaphysical in play with each other so as to create new images out of the ambiguities inherent in her ongoing exploration of painterly possibilities. Indeed, Angela Lyn has been investigating the thresholds of her medium as perhaps no other painter of her generation in her quest to use her work as a space of dialogue between oppositions and finding of the self.

Angela Lyn was born in Windsor, England in 1955 to a Chinese father and an English mother. In 1968 she emigrated with her family to the USA. In 1972 she travelled to Taiwan to explore her Asian heritage, pursuing studies in Chinese language and painting at Fu-Jen University in Taipei. Later, returning to England, she studied Fine Art at Southampton College of Art and Byam Shaw School of Painting, London. In 1978 she moved to Switzerland and attended the Master Class in painting, led by Franz Fedier at the Kunstgewerbeschule, Basel. She is the mother of three children and presently lives and works in Lugano, Switzerland. Her works can be found in corporate, private and museum collections across Europe, Russia and the USA.

Max Koss was born in 1982 in Berlin. A student of the Humanities and Social Sciences, he has lived in Berlin, Paris, and London, where he graduated from the LSE and the Courtauld Institute of Art. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree in Art History at the University of Chicago. He is a scholar of modern European art, and has written essays ranging from German Romanticism to the work of Gerhard Richter. He has been following Angela Lyn's work for many years, and is a regular contributor to her catalogues.

A catalogue featuring a text by Max Koss will accompany the gallery exhibition.

Contact

Before and after the exhibition

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