

Philip Maltman – Paintings

The Sutton Gallery (newly open on Dundas Street, Edinburgh) is proud to present an extensive exhibition of abstract paintings by the Scottish-born and London-based artist Philip Maltman.

Maltman was born in Ayrshire in 1950, where he was captivated by the drama of Ailsa Craig. The rugged landscape continues to inform his practice, particularly in abstracted works made from beach-walks where flotsam and jetsam are depicted from above in a way that recognizes their sense of balance and counterpoise with each other.

Focusing on the last ten years, the exhibition features works from all of Maltman's most important series over this period, including works inspired by the writings (and in particular the carefully-coded notebooks) of James Joyce, works inspired by his garden, works that draw on the lyricism of rap music and works that abstract and interrogate questions of landscape and seasonality.

The act of writing on canvas has been a recurring feature of Maltman's practice ever since he was at Hornsey College of Art and Ravensbourne College of Art in the late 1960s and 1970s. As in the work of Cy Twombly, Maltman's paintings display an intense sensitivity to the histories behind each object he depicts and phrase he extracts. However, an important aesthetic in the work is also that of "play", a notion Maltman inherits from another of his artistic heroes: Don Van Vliet (Captain Beefheart).

Gallery Director Reuben Sutton has commented: *"I am delighted to be displaying Philip Maltman's vibrant and dramatic abstract paintings in The Sutton Gallery. A profoundly sensitive and experimental Scottish artist, his work displays great affinities with some of the most innovative painters of the last thirty years. As the great Peter Schjeldahl wrote of Joan Michell: "every mark seems to have its own personality"*.

While at Hornsey, Maltman was active within the revolutionary student movement there in 1968. Completing his studies at Ravensbourne College of Art, his degree show eschewed conventional presentation and instead consisted of his studio, covered in plastic and gorily splattered with red paint.

His more recent work retains this intense energy but it is charged with a sense of stillness (meditation is a crucial part of Maltman's practice). The drama of his paintings comes from the balancing of abstract and symbolic marks on subtle backgrounds where the space between objects is as active in the works as the marks themselves.

As Maltman himself has remarked: *"I extend my experience and enjoyment of the world by making artworks. This invariably results in chaos and sometimes in an*

acceptable order, which can be called painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, or photography; generically speaking, an artwork. Artworks for me are about mark making, drawn, painted, scratched, gouged, flooded, scrubbed, stuck, dried or dusted. The mark is paramount whether accidental or deliberate and is recognised as primarily an attempt to convey the accident of passion before the secondary concerns of deliberate representation or composition.”

Maltman has exhibited widely across the UK, including RA Summer exhibitions, the Demarco Trust in Edinburgh, Angela Flowers Gallery, Rowley Gallery, Piers Freeham Gallery, Clink Wharf Gallery in London, Mclaurin Art Gallery in Ayr, Urmson Burnett Gallery in Salisbury and “mac” in Birmingham. In 2000, his work was exhibited as part of the John Moore Contemporary Painting 21 exhibition. In 2009, he was nominated by Rebecca Walker as one of the top ten artists on Saatchi Online and he was shortlisted for the John Moore Painting Prize in 2010.

- Ends -

For more information, images and interview requests, please call Colin Herd on 07854972930 or email colin@thesuttongallery.com

Philip Maltman
5th October – 26th October 2013

Open Tues – Sat 11am – 5pm

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