

Bernet Bertram Berlin

PRESS RELEASE

Angela Dwyer

Lustra

Oil paintings and
word compositions on paper

Goethestraße 2-3, 10623 Berlin
Entrance B across the courtyard

May 7, 2016 - June 15, 2016
Opening: May 6, from 7 - 9 pm



Angela Dwyer, *Lustra*, 2016 Courtesy: The artist and Galerie Bernet Bertram, Berlin

Bernet Bertram is pleased to invite you to our exhibition with new paintings and works on paper by the artist **Angela Dwyer**.

Angela Dwyer was born in New Zealand and lives in Berlin. Her works have been exhibited in the German and international contemporary art scene since the mid-1980s. *Lustra*, the title of this exhibition, is a reference to Ezra Pound's poetry anthology which came into being during the poet's imagistic phase around 1916. Dwyer shows works in oil and written images on paper in small and big formats.

After many years of artistic interaction with color patches and squares, Dwyer emphasizes a procedural development in her equally abstract and expressionist **new paintings**. Works like "Seer", "Burning Burning", "Atomic" and "Bluebird", created in 2015 and 2016, are dominated by horizontal and vertical streaks, lines and color paths. The artist predominantly applies the colors blue, red, yellow and orange in differentiated pastose layers that exceed the limits of the artwork and deliberately blur them. She creates spaces for the imagination by adding paint on paint, shades and nuances. Squares and patches under the surface remain visible and merge with shapes, landscapes, faces or reflections, like in her painting "Nach der Natur", invoking W.G. Sebald's elementary poem. It is the paintings of the extended moment – *Images in the Moment*, which, with their symmetrical structure and relief three-dimensionality, take up and transmit characteristics of the fine arts in the artist's home country.

In contrast to her massive color paintings, Dwyer shows writing as an image and image as writing in her **works on paper**. Using pastel colors, ink, charcoal and pigments in her bigger compositions, she creates collages by arranging different layers of paper, thus establishing surface and depth ("Unceasingly", "When Things Fall Into Words"). The word compositions of the artist, elevated to the gestural and picturesque, become the actual element of the picture. Words, sentence fragments, splinters of recollection from literature and philosophy appear, crossing over and telescoping each other, and are scratched out and pasted over without disappearing entirely. Dwyer's word compositions tie in with the traditions of great New Zealand artists like Colin McCahon and Ralph Hotere; however, they firmly abstain from making any kind of statement or conveying messages. The words rather remain afloat like fragments of dreams and invite the viewer to engage in the world of the mind and personal projection. Often the word images lead to questions and textual paradoxes.

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Another part of the exhibition are Dwyer's drawings of **classical fragments** which are an equivalent to her abstract works. These elements of the picture in pastel, pencil or charcoal pencil (e.g. "Cranachs Hände") are deliberately left unfinished. Here Dwyer also quotes bodies and faces as figurative elements, leaving the context behind. Thus challenging the imagination of the viewer, the images attain a graphic presence in which the fragments appear as a whole.

Angela Dwyer was born in Palmerston North, New Zealand, in 1961. She studied at the Otago School of Fine Arts in Dunedin, New Zealand and at the Gippsland School of Visual Arts in Churchill, Australia. She has lived and worked in Berlin since 1984. Her works have been shown internationally in solo and group exhibitions in Berlin, Karlsruhe, Cologne, Antwerp, Como and Milan since the 1980s. In 2013 her installations were shown in the exhibition "Farbe Raum Farbe" at the Georg Kolbe Museum in Berlin. Angela Dwyer was visiting professor at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste München. She is a lecturer of design at the Institute of Design in Berlin. Her art has been shown at international exhibitions like Art Cologne, Frieze London, Miami Puls, Art Moscow, Art Brussels, and New York Puls. Dwyer's work is also exhibited in different private collections and museums.

Artist Talk with Angela Dwyer
Thursday, May 26, 2016, at 7 pm.

Upcoming
17. Juni - 21. Juli 2016

Mathias Wild

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Opening hours
Tuesday – Friday from 12 – 6 pm
Saturday from 12 – 4 pm and by appointment
Extended opening hours during Gallery Weekend Berlin from 10 am – 9 pm
(April 29 – May 1, 2016)

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