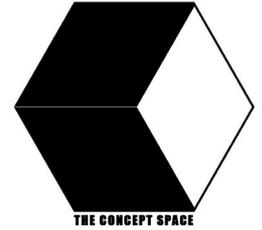


PRESS RELEASE



Women don't paint very well

Ms MELA YERKA

Private View 6 – 8.30pm, Thursday 25 May 2017

Exhibition runs 26 May – 17 June 2017

The Concept Space, 7 Spa Road, Bermondsey, London, SE16 3QP

The Concept Space is pleased to present the **'Women don't paint very well - Ms Mela Yerka'**, an exhibition of works kindly loaned to the show by a private collection and others direct from the artist. The exhibition is a response to an interview given by the pre-eminent post-war artist Georg Baselitz to Der Spiegel in 2013 in which he declared, **"Women don't paint very well. It's a fact"** then backed by another with the Guardian in 2015.

The show uses Yerka's paintings of 19th Century women whose lives are marked in history by relationships or association with powerful and prominent men of the time, to emphasise the notion of struggle by these women for recognition and individuality.

Relying on the male gaze and approval of their mutual lovers to gain appreciation and acceptance, we question if the talent of painters who happen to be women, would have to rely on the male agenda, aesthetics and definition of truth? Is it still the case that painting is overwhelmingly perceived as a masculine medium? Has social exclusion and inaccurate history been a contributing factor in this view?

The works on show only serve to open that dialogue. The exciting sense of freedom shown through the exploration of various techniques and materials is evidence of a practice backed by in-depth research. The artist introduces the viewer to refreshing flesh tones, bold colours and subtle evidence of complex layering. A different approach to painting with respect for the tradition but infused with touches of a contemporary practice.

Beauty, ugliness and truth are being left to the viewer to decide. However, one goal is to encourage a positive shift of attitude when considering works worthy of praise and for these to be confidently attributed to painters who may just happen to be female.

Mela Yerka is Polish, but lives and works in London. She studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw, Poland and later at Central St Martins College of Art, London, United Kingdom. Mela won the Cass Art Painting Prize in 2011 and continues to exhibit internationally.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Mela Yerka - Artist Statement

"The interest in culture as an unpredictable and uncontrollable power, which steers human societies and secures their survival, is the fundament of my artistic practice."

Mela Yerka has exhibited nationally and internationally including selected shows listed below:

SOLO SHOWS

Liaisons / Century Club / London; Mela Yerka / Kamarade / Stockholm (2016); And the — the Surface is Fine and Powdery / Maria Stenfors / London (2014); What Red Blue is in? / Maria Stenfors / London (2013)

GROUP SHOWS

The Drawing Show / The Workers' Cafe / London (2017); panoRama / Opere Scelte / Turin; Summer Mix / Turps Gallery / London; Albin Looström and Mela Yerka / Kamarade / Falsterbo, Sweden (2015); part is fame [art as game] / Platforma Space / Bucharest; Furnishings / Sebright House, Hackney / London; Art & Gryl / Chomiczowka City Gardens / Warsaw; part is fame [art as game] / Schleifmühlgasse 12-14 / Vienna (2014); Nothing About Trees / Elthorne Studios / London (2013); Chase of Grace / Maria Stenfors / London (2012)

ART FAIRS

Art Rotterdam / Maria Stenfors; London Art Fair / Maria Stenfors (2015); Manchester Contemporary / Maria Stenfors (2014); Art13 London / Maria Stenfors (2013)

About The Concept Space

The Concept Space is a unique contemporary art hub in Bermondsey, London founded with the mission of being a platform for artists, curators and collectors to express their passion for contemporary art with program of talks, discussions, projects, residencies and collaborations. And the freedom and flexibility to a parallel program makes it a unique space.

Located in an area gaining a reputation as London's latest art hub with spaces such as Jerwood Space, White Cube, Tannery Projects, Drawing Room, Art Bermondsey Project Space, Vitrine to name a few, it aims to present works from both UK and other international artists.

www.theconceptspace.org

Social Media

#WomenDontPaintVeryWell

#MelaYerka

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