

RICHMOND ART GALLERY

CLOSE LISTENING: Eli Bornowsky, Jeremy Hof, Monique Mouton, Jinny Yu
January 30 - March 29, 2015



Organized and circulated by the Ottawa Art Gallery, and curated by Ola Wlusek, OAG's Curator of Contemporary Art, *Close Listening* brings together the works of four painters who are reconsidering the possibilities of abstraction with inventive approaches to their material. Collectively, they explore the medium of paint through non-traditional techniques, including assemblage, sculpture, video and installation, while challenging the definition of the act of painting.

Jeremy Hof employs a playful methodology of selecting colours according to his least desirable preferences. This is combined with a patient approach of layering acrylic paint onto multi-dimensional canvas supports, only to grind away and then squeegee the surfaces, revealing the broad spectrum of psychedelic colours beneath. Most recently, the artist introduced bronze to his palette.

Similarly, **Jinny Yu** focuses on sculptural manifestations within the field of painting. She distributes black ink and oil paint onto manipulated aluminium pieces, while considering the architectural qualities of the space. Expanding her practice into video and sound, Yu surpasses the limits of what qualifies as painting, redefining the act itself by referring to every aesthetic accident and formal gesture within her studio as such.

Working on two-dimensional surfaces, **Eli Bornowsky** creates oil and gouache paintings within which three-dimensional found objects interact with each other. In others, he explores the formal qualities of the painterly strokes of a brush, or finger, on canvas and board. These works often refer to the hundreds of drawings found in his notebooks. The pages offer a web of untamed monochromatic squiggly lines that become a new language that resides among the established geometric forms of a colourful circle, a cylinder and a square.

For **Monique Mouton**, the uneven shapes of the panels which support her oil paints suggest that works exist beyond the confines of the frame. Her compositions appear to undulate from beyond the wall itself, as if they are vistas into a tenuous, representational world. Suggestive of a landscape, a faraway horizon, or an object floating in an imagined space, the paintings contain Mouton's visual vocabulary waiting to be revealed only to patient eyes.

Communicating together, these works create a sense that their shapes hover; their colours tremble and disperse into subsonic waves as they travel back and forth between visual nuances and audible subtleties. They speak on a higher level of painterly consciousness. Through slow looking, moving quietly from one work to another, meditating, and then starting over again, something special is acknowledged and heard.

The opening reception will be on Friday, January 30, 7:00-9:00pm. Curator Ola Wlusek will be in attendance and present an introduction to the exhibition.

Related Programming includes; *Abstract Painting Workshop with Jeremy Hof* on Saturday, February 21, a free screening of the short documentary *Driven to Abstraction: Canadian Abstract Art and the Turbulent '50s*, on Wednesday, February 25, and a *Painting Workshop: Understanding Colour* Thursday, March 12 with RAG Instructor Melanie Devoy. Please view website for details at www.richmondartgallery.org

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Image credit

Jeremy Hof, *Fluorescent Ring on Purple*, 2014 Acrylic on panel 32" x 32"