

M I C H A E L GOEDHUIS

Whitney McVeigh: New Ink Paintings

Private view:

Wednesday 14th October, 18:00 – 20:00

Exhibition:

15th October – 20th November 2015

Opening hours: Monday – Friday, 11:00 – 18:00

Flat 3, 61 Cadogan Square, SW1X 0HZ, London

Michael Goedhuis is delighted to present *New Ink Paintings* by American born artist, Whitney McVeigh. The work for this exhibition presents ink and acrylic paintings on paper and richly textured monotypes, ranging from pure gestural abstraction to eloquent forms that await interpretation. Common to all is a persistent and relevant dialogue between abstraction and oblique references to the tangible world.

Much of McVeigh's work is to do with memory, discovery and continuity. Like the scholarly Chinese painters and calligraphers, to whom she was exposed while living in Beijing in 2007, she inspires a special form of aesthetic response, and even of moral elevation, by recapturing and collecting moments of the past, safe from the fingertips of the future and the depredations of technology.

Whitney McVeigh challenges expectations and cultural norms in diverse ways. She is equally comfortable with choreographing an installation of found objects, for example her 2015 exhibition in Kettle's Yard and her participation in the 55th Venice Biennale in 2013, as directing film or continuing her long exploration of ink paintings on paper. Her work runs against much of contemporary cultural orthodoxy in producing for the viewer a visual experience that is unostentatious, poetic, evocative and psychologically probing.

While there is a pictorial sympathy between Asian brush painting and her ink works, McVeigh's cultural roots are embedded in western art history. She has absorbed a rich mixture of influences, from the "Prodigal Son" drawings of Daumier through to André Breton's 1920's experiments in automatic writing, the haunting intimacies of Joseph Cornell's boxes and the weighty abstractions (and writings) of Robert Motherwell. Her work is also marked by a sophisticated literary quality, shaped by immersion in the work of artists' texts, world literature and particularly the poetry of Arthur Rimbaud, Jorge Luis Borges and Walt Whitman, all of which have gradually permeated her aesthetic personality, some of which she refers to in the works themselves.

Notes to Editors:

Whitney McVeigh (b.1968, New York) has travelled extensively for her work, with significant periods spent in Europe, South Africa, India and China. Currently she resides in London and is Fellow in Creative Practice at University of the Arts, London. Her recent exhibitions include a solo installation at St Peter's Church, Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, 2015, 'Birth: Origins at the end of life' at Kurashiki University of Science and the Arts, Okayama, Japan, 2015 and Glass Stress, White Light/White Heat at the 55th Venice Biennale, 2013. She has lectured and held discussions internationally including The Royal Academy of Arts, London, March 2015 and presentation of her work at Louise Bourgeois Salon in New York in 2007.