

La Galerie London presents

INTENTIONAL ABSTRACTION

Abstract paintings

Will Ayres

Louisa Burnett-Hall

Eva Walova-Lemaire

23rd – 28th March 2010

5 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 2EE (off Portobello Road)

(Tues-Fri 10am to 6pm/Sat-Sun 11am to 4pm)

Organised and curated by Karine Giannamore

10% OF THE PROFITS WILL BE DONATED TO COSMIC: Children of St Mary's Intensive Care, Paddington Hospital

The exhibition's title describes the common direction – the intention - of three accomplished artists. Each explores abstraction's purity of form and emotion in different ways.

Able, formal painters, they have in this collection, however, avoided the figurative in a complex quest for simplicity. Good abstract painting comes from years of training, searching and experimenting through paint. It is a misconception that anyone can do it well.

Rather like a ballet dancer who must learn technique before being able to dance confidently, so a painter must master the figurative before dismantling its formal rules in search of new, compelling ways of seeing and representation.

All three artists share an artistic progression towards abstraction although their styles are radically different. Each has an established career in figurative painting and has gradually turned towards "pure art". Abstraction is a language of colour, form, light, texture, and interplay that expresses feeling and emotion sometimes more powerfully than by figurative means.

Explaining her painting, **Eva Walova-Lemaire** refers to the "Chromatic Emotions". Successful abstract art requires the artists to achieve the multiple layering of colour and texture within a balanced composition. It is this intricate balance that delivers emotional impact and meaning.

She has explored various subjects in her expressionist and free style work, including *Women*, *Landscapes*, *Angels* and *Flowers*. Overtime, flowers have disappeared, replaced by bright, harmonious colour. Artistically, it is a struggle to suppress the form and simplify the work, pairing it down to the absolute essential.

Pure colours or their absence, have a powerful visual impact in their singular function to show harmony and emotion.

For **Louisa Burnett-Hall**, creating abstract work is a real "exigence" (requirement), "an adventure" in which she has to be ready to engage. Her work becomes figurative or abstract, she explains, depending on her mood and broadly, abstract work comes from a positive frame of mind.

As for **Will Ayres**, abstract painting "happens mainly at night". He is well known for his impeccable technique in recreating scenes from movie stills, city views, Nature (*Oceans* and *Mountains*) and objects in close-up.

Key elements retained from his figurative are contrasting light and the dense emotion his use of black suggests. Where the complicated is eradicated, there is a peaceful quality to the work and a sense of truth and stillness.

Eva Walova-Lemaire, born in 1947 in Prague. She attended Beaux-Arts School in Paris. She has had many group and solo exhibitions in Paris, Prague, Hanover, Lisbon and the Basque region in France. Her exhibitions are sometimes paired with performances where she paints huge canvases in live (Pompidou Centre, Paris; Salon des Arts, London; Lisbon) or installations (*Les Drapeaux*, Dieppe; *Les traces des Anges*). Her works are in Private collections in France, England and Germany.

She lives and works in Paris and Biarritz.

Louisa Burnett-Hall spent her childhood in the chalk valleys of Hampshire, moving to Scotland to study Fine Art at Edinburgh. There she painted her first landscapes inspired by the the rich colours and rolling hills of the lowlands.

She is a graduate from a P.G.C.E. in Art and Design at the Institute of Education, University of London and in Fine Art from the Edinburgh University and Edinburgh College of Art.

She works and lives in Paris.

Will Ayres, born in 1974, is a Graduated from Central St Martins School of Art. He has had solo exhibitions at the Groucho Club, The Great Eastern Hotel in London and was part of the two last exhibitions from the East End Arts Club. His works are in various private collections including Mr and Mrs Cadbury. He lives and works in London.

For more information, visit www.lagalerielondon.co.uk or contact:

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