

Keltie Ferris

Exclamation Point

19.3. – 23.4.2016

We're very pleased to present the first solo exhibition of work by New York based artist Keltie Ferris (b1977) in Germany. The exhibition will bring together a new set of paintings and a number of Ferris' 'body prints' – the artist's ongoing series of unique works on paper.

„I've accepted the limits of painting, its conventions, but I still see a glimmer of possibility for painting within this. Painting has been used to express such a range of emotional tenors – across a spectrum of sincerity and irony. Maybe I'm trying to find an expressivity that feels honest and appropriate for right now, not corny or jokey.“ from: Keltie Ferris in conversation with Isabelle Graw, 2015

Keltie Ferris' paintings greet the viewer as living and breathing entities, pulsing and throbbing beyond the limits of the canvas and humming with energy. She synthesizes allusions to divergent schools of painting, from pop to abstract expressionism to graffiti, into a riotous fusion unmistakably her own – which is deeply engaged in an investigation about the 'being' of painting.

Idiosyncratic patterns and electric colors jostle for attention, while in other works, subtler, radiant pastels meander across the canvas to evoke further dimensions. Textures of syncopated brushstrokes and air-brushed oil paint bring to mind aerial views of futuristic cities, acid-inspired quilts, or glitch-laced JPEGs. Keltie Ferris synthesizes allusions to divergent schools of painting, from pop to abstract expressionism to graffiti, into a riotous, authentic fusion unmistakably her own. Following this 'veracity' her body prints – Ferris' recent method of working with natural oils and pigments, using her whole body as a brush – explore painting as a personal index.

Keltie Ferris (b.1977) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her MFA in 2006 from Yale School of Art and her BFA in 2004 from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Recent solo exhibitions include Keltie Ferris, Mitchell-Innes&Nash, NY; Doomsday Boogie at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, and Body Prints at Chapter NY, New York. Her works have been included in group exhibitions at institutions such as Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, Texas; Brooklyn Museum, New York and Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis. She was recently awarded the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Painting by the Academy of Arts and Letters. Currently her work is on view as well at the University Art Museum at the University of Albany, NY.