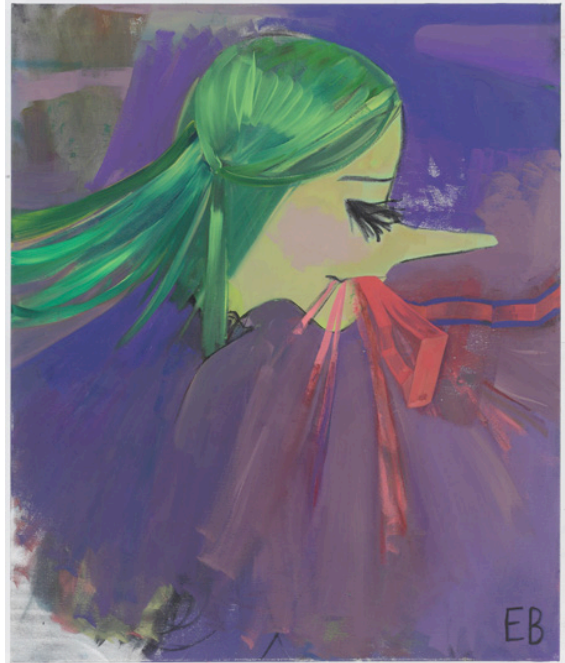


Ellen Berkenblit

March 1 – 31, 2012

February 15, 2012—In her fifth solo show at Anton Kern Gallery, New York-based painter Ellen Berkenblit presents a new body of intensely colored, energetic, figurative paintings. Layers of rawness and vulnerability are uncovered from densely built-up images of light, figure and a tangible sense of atmosphere and emotional depth.

Berkenblit applies a distinctive palette of vigorously mixed colors with assertive broad brushstrokes and some scraping of the palette knife. Her shapes are rough yet well-defined fields of color; occasional black outlines can define an object, an animal, or the features of a face. Out



of the paintings' visceral physicality emerge certain themes, motifs and ideas: a head in profile featuring intense black lashes and long shimmering hair, lacy ribbons (painted as angular and deliciously awkward bands of paint that vigorously pull together the paintings' fore- and middle-grounds). Even purely atmospheric sensations such as clouds, bolts of sun light, rainbows and starry night skies find expression. These images simultaneously emerge out of the subjects' relevance and the visibly exuberant act of painting.

The paintings' spirit is bold, boisterous and forceful, sometimes mysterious, always deeply emotional. The interplay between figurative elements, the intense atmosphere created by color contrast and tonal palette, as well as the compositional devices create figurative paintings of great fluidity and openness without being narrowed by narrative.

With numerous solo shows to her credit at galleries in Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome and throughout the United States, Ellen Berkenblit's work has been included in exhibitions at the Farnsworth Art Museum (2011), Artist Space, New York (2009), the New York Academy of Art (2008), the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2007), the Tucson Museum of Art (2005), and the New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY (2004). Berkenblit lives and works in New York.

The exhibition will open on Thursday, March 1 and will run through Saturday, March 31, 2012. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Nahna Kim at 212.367.9663 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

Upcoming exhibitions: Anne Collier (April 5 - May 12, 2012)

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