

Ellen Berkenblit

January 17 – February 23, 2008

December 20, 2007—New York-artist Ellen Berkenblit's third one-person exhibition at Anton Kern Gallery presents a body of black-and-white paintings with the recurring image of a girl in profile. Berkenblit uses this figure as a formal anchoring or starting point to build up densely layered paintings in a wide range of black, white and grey tones.

“This girl is the incarnation of seeing and feeling, with big saucer eyes, and fat hands that hang in front of her like fleshy tools poised to grasp. She too is tense with a cluster of affect: anxiety, amusement, desire, shame, wonder.

Her mouth is an astonished O and her eyebrows are tilted in uncertainty. She sees and feels something off the edge that is not pictured, perhaps something unsayable; you sense the proximity of trauma or spooks.

Her characters exist within an embrace of off-register painting gestures: blotches, patches, scumbles, wipe-outs. Positive and negative spaces interlap. Colors puff up, then go slack. Shapes spill inside other shapes and obscure them. Background vaporizes into foreground. Center spills against outline; inside destabilizes outside; past folds into future.” (Amy Sillman)



A catalog book with texts by Joan Tewkesbury and Amy Sillman will be available.

Ellen Berkenblit's work has been shown at the New Museum of Contemporary Art, NY (2004), the Tucson Museum of Art (2005), and recently at the Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (2007). She has exhibited in galleries in Vienna, Amsterdam, Brussels, Rome and throughout the United States.

The exhibition will open on Thursday, January 17 and will run through Saturday, February 23, 2008. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am - 6 pm. For further information and images, please contact Christoph Gerozissis or Michael Clifton at (t) 212.367.9663, (f) 212.367.8135 or email: info@antonkerngallery.com.

Upcoming exhibitions: Manfred Pernice (February 28 – March 29, 2008)

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