

Pressrelease
Exhibition 25.Mai – 7.Juli 2012

Soloshow

Judith Trepp

New Paintings

Characterized by a tension between the visible and invisible, and the juxtaposition of emptiness and abundance, the work of American painter Judith Trepp explores the uncanny interaction of line, surface and space. Art Forum Ute Barth is delighted to present a solo exhibition of the artist's recent works that continue her enquiry into the relationship between expression and subjective experience, as well as a new thematic focus on the perception of nature. Composed of multiple repetitions, connections and fractures, the rhythmic forms of Trepp's paintings draw on a dynamic interplay of harmony and discord. Elemental contrasts such as light and dark, straight and flat, loose and tight, and strong and tender define both her pictorial compositions and working method.

For Trepp, the act of painting always begins with the careful preparation of a surface. By applying multiple layers of egg tempera and diluted washes of colored oil with a loose, feathery Japanese brush, she allows the movement of paint, texture of canvas, and traces of brushstroke to determine the underlying spatial and thematic structure of the picture, as well as draw attention to the apparent significance of her physical action and labor within the painting process. Trepp then inscribes this meticulous surface with a series of painted signs that recall symbolic forms such as mountains and rivers, or even people in motion. Here her brushwork appears at once spontaneous and controlled, her gestures rapid yet precise, as akin to Far Eastern calligraphy, as it is to artists such as Franz Kline, Robert Motherwell and Hans Hoffmann whom have been influential on Trepp's work since the beginning of her career.

Born in 1940's New York, the approach of the New York School, with its emphasis on spontaneous emotional and spiritual expression as an aesthetic strategy, served as Trepp's point of departure in the visual arts (indeed, Harold Rosenberg's description of the canvas as "an arena in which to act", could still apply to her works today). However, in contrast to classic abstract expressionists such as Kline and Motherwell, Trepp's paintings conceal a skeptical and critical attitude: despite their apparent spontaneity, both her surface preparation and gestural mark-making are based on repeated and perfected sketches, a process that by definition deviates from the logic of expressionism. The viewer thus perceives the borderline between coincidence and control, chaos and order, and is drawn to question the verisimilitude of the picture as the equivalent of experienced impressions.

ART FORUM UTE BARTH

Gallery for Modern & Contemporary Art
Galerie für Moderne & Zeitgenössische Kunst

This relates closely to the ongoing debate around the notion of authenticity in the visual arts which has commanded so much attention since the rise of post-modernity. How, for example, are personal experiences fictionalized in artworks? By what means do the experience and fictional construction link to each other? And how can the viewer verify the expression of the artist within the work? Confronted by Trepp's ambiguous alter-expressionism, one might initially seek answers in the tangible: is the depicted image a line or a surface? Does it present an illusionary space or a two-dimensional form? Are the painted signs fragments of something concrete or solely abstract? Yet it is her denial of a clear boundary between dualisms such as line and surface, surface and space, fragment and totality, that establishes her paintings as rhetorical figures - much like zen buddhistic "Koans" intended to train us in thought beyond the either/or.

Opening Reception: **Thursday, May 24, 6 pm – 8 pm** at the Gallery ART FORUM UTE BARTH.

Duration of the exhibition: May 25 – July 7, 2012.

Further information about the artist:

http://www.utebarth.com/kuenstler/judith_trepp.htm

<http://www.judithtrepp.net/home.html>

Images

Download of pictures in high resolution (300dpi) and more images on the gallery blog:

<http://artforumutebarth.com/pressemeldungen/>

(Free to use for articles about the exhibition or the gallery)

1



Judith Trepp
Untitled, 2010
Egg tempera, oil and oil stick on linen
65 x 115 cm
Signed on the reverse

CHF 12000

© ART FORUM UTE BARTH

2



Judith Trepp
Untitled, 2010
Egg tempera, oil and oil stick on linen
61 x 115 cm
Signed on the reverse

CHF 12000

© ART FORUM UTE BARTH

ART FORUM UTE BARTH

Gallery for Modern & Contemporary Art
Galerie für Moderne & Zeitgenössische Kunst

3



Judith Trepp
Untitled, 2010
Egg tempera, oil and oil stick on linen
80 x 120 cm
Signed on the reverse

CHF 15000

© ART FORUM UTE BARTH

4



Judith Trepp
Untitled, 2011
Egg tempera, oil and oil stick on linen
33 x 64 cm.
Signed on the reverse

CHF 7500

© ART FORUM UTE BARTH

5



Judith Trepp
Untitled, 2009
Eitempera, Öl und Ölstift auf Leinwand
90 x 110 cm
Signed on the reverse

CHF 15000

© ART FORUM UTE BARTH

Download of pictures in high resolution (300dpi) and more images on the gallery blog:

<http://artforumutebarth.com/pressemeldungen/>

(Free to use for articles about the exhibition or the gallery)

ART FORUM UTE BARTH

Gallery for Modern & Contemporary Art
Galerie für Moderne & Zeitgenössische Kunst

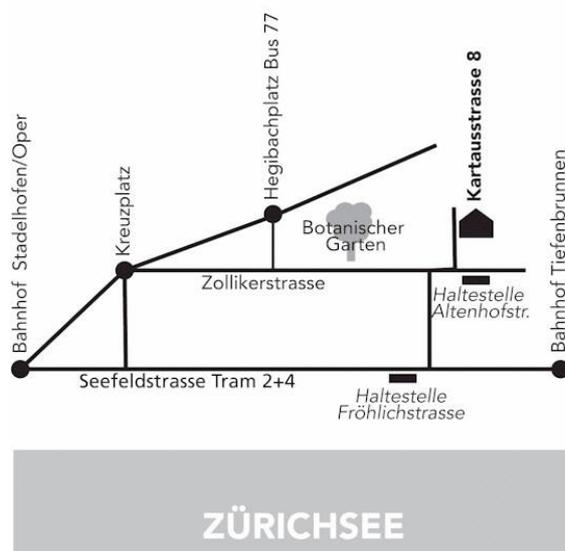
Judith Trepp Soloshow

Exhibition: May 25 – July 7, 2012

**Opening Reception: Thursday, May 24, 2012
6pm – 8pm, artist in attendance**

Where:

ART FORUM UTE BARTH
Galerie für Moderne & Zeitgenössische Kunst
Kartausstrasse 8
CH-8008 Zürich (Seefeld)



**If you wish further information about the gallery, the artist or the exhibition,
please contact:**

ART FORUM UTE BARTH Tel: +41 44 380 21 12, Fax: +41 44 380 27 13
info@utebarth.com , www.utebarth.com

Opening hours

Tue - Fr 11am – 6pm, Sat 11am – 3pm and upon request

ART FORUM UTE BARTH

Tram 2,4 Bus 33 to Fröhlichstrasse

or Bus 77 (departing from Hegibachplatz) to Altenhofstrasse

Parking space in front of the door and the blue marked area (Blaue Zone)