

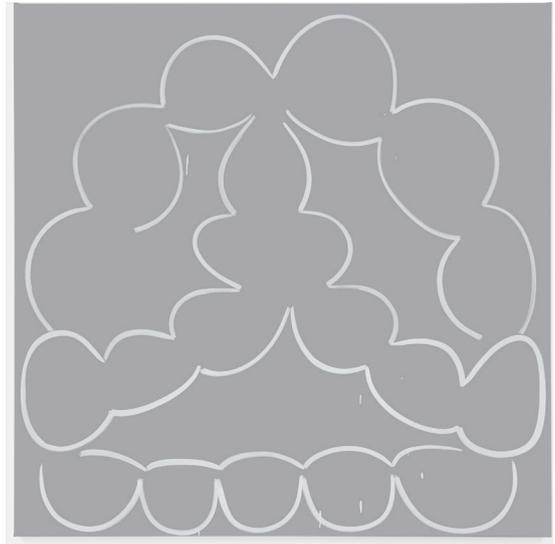
# AMY FELDMAN

## *Breath Myth*

11 February – 8 April 2017

Private View: Friday 10 February 2016 , 6-9pm

Blain|Southern  
Potsdamer Straße 77-87  
10785 Berlin



Amy Feldman, *Moon Mood*, 2016, 79x79cm, acrylic on canvas  
Courtesy the artist and Blain|Southern, Photo: Timothy Doyon

Blain|Southern presents Amy Feldman's first solo exhibition in Germany. *Breath Myth* comprises a group of entirely new paintings by the New York-based artist.

Starting with a preparatory sketch in marker pen, Feldman makes each painting in a single performative take. Giving herself just one chance to get it right, the associated risk and anxiety play an important part in her aim to communicate urgency in her painting.

Feldman's work offers the viewer a vivid conversation between the physical and formal language of abstract painting. This is evidenced in the interactions she creates between the figure and ground, questioning the hierarchy of the two. Drips of wayward paint are unplanned yet embraced by the artist as they break the boundary from the figure of the painting into the ground of a pristine, almost-white canvas, a surface always modulated with hints of colour, from violet to pale, silvery greys. These accidental breaches reflect the immediacy of her technique and suggest that complete control over the medium is forever unobtainable.

Consistently working in just shades of grey, Feldman has developed an abstract sign system that alludes to systems of writing and the transmission of information: the viewer might be reminded of the monochrome of newsprint and calligraphy, or the grey scale of early TV. With this reduced palette, she also aims to strip away associations and limitations that many colours would introduce to the painting. Similarly, the bulbous, sketchy and irregular forms that she paints are just familiar enough to be reminiscent yet – as with her colour palette – elusive enough to dodge literal decoding. Yet a clear allusion to the body and to Feldman's position as female painter persists in the work.

Her ebullient, cartoonish shapes also have a comic effect; along with the humorous wordplay in the titles and her light-hearted way of handling paint, they counter the sombre tones and imposing scale of works. With stretchers that often exceed 2 metres, the canvasses are slightly beyond the extent of her arm's reach, which imposes an extra element of physicality on the performance of painting.

Feldman will also be part of a group exhibition opening this December at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago. *Riot Grrrls* focusses on pioneering female painters as part of an ongoing exhibition series featuring iconic works from the MCA's collection.

## Notes to Editors

### About the artist

Amy Feldman (b.1981) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She received her Bachelor of Fine Arts from the Rhode Island School of Design and her Master of Fine Arts from Rutgers University. Recent solo exhibitions include *Psyche Shade*, Ratio 3, San Francisco (2016); *Good Gloom*, Corbett vs. Dempsey, Chicago (2016); *Trice Electric*, ANNAELLE, Stockholm (2015); *Gray Area*, Sorry We're Closed, Brussels, (2014). Feldman has an upcoming solo exhibition at James Cohan Gallery, New York. Selected group exhibitions include *Riot Grrrls*, Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, (Dec 2016); *The Congregation*, Jack Hanley, New York (2016); *Amy Feldman, Lucio Fontana, Maximilian Schubert, Alan Weiner*, 11R Gallery, New York (2016); *Face to Face*, Palazzo Fruscione Salerno (2016); *New York Painting*, Kunstmuseum, Bonn (2015); *2159 Miles*, Museo Britanico Americano, Mexico City (2015); *This One's Optimistic: Pin Cushion*, New Britain Museum of American Art (2014); *The New York Moment*, Musée d'Art Moderne St. Étienne (2014).

Feldman is Visiting Faculty at Rutgers University (2015) and Cooper Union (2014-2015). She was an artist-in-residence /Visiting Faculty at Virginia Commonwealth University from 2008-9. Feldman received a Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant in 2013 and was also nominated for The Academy of Arts and Letters Award. The Dedalus Foundation awarded her the Robert Motherwell Fellowship at The MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, New Hampshire (2011) and she has been awarded fellowships from the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, Maine (2009); Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, New York (2011); The Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation (2013).

She has been written about by *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Brooklyn Rail*, *Le Monde*, *Le Figaro*, *Monopol*, *Mousse*, *Flash Art Italia*, and *The New York Times* amongst others, and her work is in the permanent collection of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) in Chicago, IL.

### About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary and modern art gallery based in London and Berlin. The gallery represents an international roster of contemporary artists and is the world-wide representative of The Estate of Lynn Chadwick. The gallery's recent exhibitions include: Michael Joo, Bosco Sodi, Harland Miller, Chiharu Shiota, Ed Moses and Bruce Nauman.

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Tuesday to Saturday: 11am - 6pm

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