

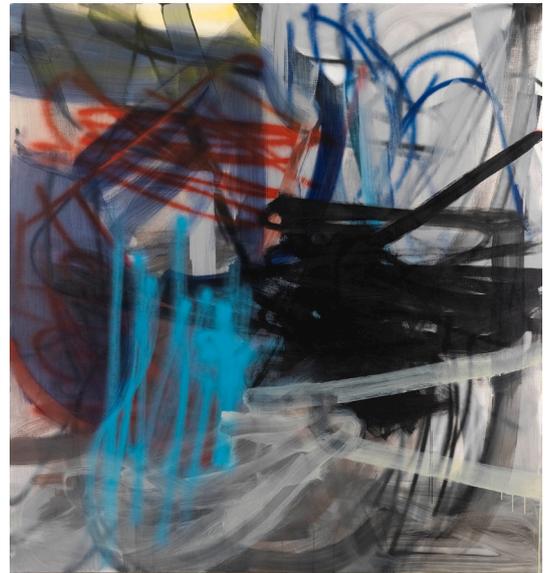
Liliane Tomasko

a dream of

28 April — 16 June 2018

Private View:
Friday 27 April, 6-9pm

Blain|Southern Berlin
Potsdamer Straße 77-87
(Mercator Höfe)
10785 Berlin



Liliane Tomasko, *a dream of: Violence Redefined*, 2018
Courtesy the artist and Blain|Southern, Photo: Brian Buckley

Liliane Tomasko presents new paintings for *a dream of*, her first exhibition with Blain|Southern. The exhibition title is a recurring refrain in the titles of works, such as *a dream of: Violence Redefined* and *a dream of: Rapture Unleashed*. Rather than outline a narrative, the titles attempt to describe the emotions triggered by Tomasko's dreams. The new group of paintings shows the artist coming to terms with her own unconscious, evoked in broad patches and fibrous strands of pigment. '*Dreams are not allegory*', writes Tomasko. '*They are much more a reality with its own independent matrix, where the known and familiar come up against elements that are weird and unsettling. This combination can produce a kind of a suspense, a heightened sense of the present and it is this state of alertness that I am interested in exploring.*'

The paintings in *a dream of* developed from dreams that embedded themselves deeply in the artist's memory because they were so visceral and affecting. She draws on a repeated dream of flying, in the sweeping, boldly-coloured stokes that make up *a dream of: Rapture Unleashed*. The muted tones and divergent, erratic lines in *a dream of: Unstoppable Growth* references simultaneous sensations of both disgust and elation after dreaming that plants were multiplying uncontrollably between her teeth. All of the paintings invite the viewer to compare the declarative title to the open-endedness of the painting, and to interpret each work, which the artist calls 'a space for uncertainty', as if in a reverie of their own.

As she begins to paint, Tomasko chooses her palette based on memories of light and sensation. A background structure in dark spray paint provides a base note or mood, while subsequent layers of colour offer notes of harmony or discord. The veils of colour and underlying black structure interact in a sensual way, which can be soft and conciliatory, or marked by rupture and abrupt shifts in tone. Whether working in monochrome or a wide spectrum of colour, Tomasko's layers of acrylic paint fade in and out of prominence much like the memories and emotions that sit at different levels within our consciousness.

Divided into one gallery of mostly large-scale colourful and expressive paintings, and a room with monochrome or darker works, *a dream of* sees Tomasko working with a confidence and openness, offering vibrant abstractions that provoke a range of conscious and unconscious thoughts. Giving herself license to push into new territories, she still considers the domestic sphere – and the image of the unmade bed, the place of dreams – as a catalyst for her paintings, and where we spend the majority of our unconscious lives.

Notes to Editors**About the artist**

Liliane Tomasko (b. 1967 Zurich, CH) studied fine art in London, at Camberwell, Chelsea and the RA and has since been based between in Germany, Spain and New York. Working now predominately in New York, she also has a studio in Berlin.

Tomasko's work is found in public and private collections worldwide, including: Bank Vontobel AG, Zurich, CH; Hilti Art Foundation, Schaan, LI; Hôtel des Arts, Centre Méditerranéen D'Art, Toulon, FR; Hugh Lane Gallery, Dublin, IE; IVAM-Institut Valencia d'Art Modern, Valencia, ES; K20 K21 Kunstsammlung Nordrhein-Westfalen, Düsseldorf, DE; Kunstmuseum Bern, Bern, CH; Lowe Art Museum, Miami, US; Staatliche Graphische Sammlung, Munich, DE; Städtische Galerie im Lenbachhaus, Munich, DE; Try-Me Collection, Richmond, Virginia, US; VMFA Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, Virginia, US

About Blain|Southern

Blain|Southern is a contemporary art gallery based in London and Berlin. The gallery represents an expanding roster of international artists and is the exclusive representative of the estates of Lynn Chadwick and Avigdor Arikha.

Recent exhibitions include Marius Bercea, Michael Joo, Avigdor Arikha, Rachel Howard, James White, Sislej Xhafa, Jake & Dinos Chapman and Michael Simpson.

The gallery has also launched a series of exhibitions in London collectively titled *Lodger*, conceived by the writer, curator, and contributing editor for frieze magazine, Tom Morton. Running concurrent to the exhibitions in the central space, *Lodger* expands Blain|Southern's programme into new territories, often spotlighting a younger generation of artists. To date artists have included Alex Dordoy, Sophie Jung, Brian Griffiths and Gabriella Boyd.

Gallery information

Blain|Southern
Potsdamer Straße 77-87
(Mercator Höfe)
10785 Berlin

Tuesday to Saturday: 11am - 6pm
+49 (0)30 6449 31510
blainsouthern.com

For further information on the exhibition, please contact Julia Niebuhr at Blain|Southern Berlin or Laura Callendar at Blain|Southern London

T: +49 (0)30 64493 1510

T: +44 (0)20 7493 4492

M: +49 (0)15 22264 5959

M: +44 (0)79 3904 9731

E: julia@blainsouthern.com

E: laura@blainsouthern.com