

BARTHA CONTEMPORARY

KATE SHEPHERD

PAST TENSE CONDITIONAL

PRIVATE VIEW: THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29, 6 – 9 PM

PRIVATE VIEW COINCIDING WITH NOVEMBER EDITION OF FITZROVIA LATES

EXHIBITION: NOVEMBER 30 2012 – FEBRUARY 2 2013

Bartha Contemporary London is delighted to announce Kate Shepherd's (USA B. 1961) first UK solo exhibition entitled Past Tense Conditional. The exhibition will feature both recent and older paintings, which serve as an overview of many central themes that have informed the artist's practice over the past two decades. An installation of paper assemblages and a site-specific wire installation complete the presentation.

Intense colour, an exacting sense of touch, attraction to geometry and the articulation of space are the principal aspects of Shepherd's work. At the centre of this exhibition lies a suite of recent paintings, which revisit some of the artist's preceding painting series. United by the artist's signature white line drawings on monochromatic reflective colour fields each work describes a clearly defined period in Shepherd's oeuvre.

Singular confined linear forms inspired by African sculpture, geometric tile pattern, the movements of falling rain or deconstructed architectural spaces are the basis for these paintings. Each line, painted with oil by hand, is highly constructed in appearance yet clearly not mechanic invite the viewer to render an imaginary space. The reflective surface of each work draws the viewer into the picture plane while inadvertently including his or her own image into the painting. The eye tethers between a drawn image and the outlined field. The atmospheric of both the monochromatic background and the faint reflections of the room that surrounds it are all pulled together into an exceptionally immersive experience.

A suite of new paper block assemblages complete the installation of Kate Shepherd's first exhibition at Bartha Contemporary. Derived out of repeated elongated triangular forms, both recognizable in their foundations and also combined as larger sections, they are graphical in appearance, but play with a language of colour studies, children's blocks and corporate logos. Arranged along shelves, each work part of a larger set can be turned and reconfigured. Each arrangement reveals new surprising structures within this playful series.

Kate Shepherd has been exhibiting internationally for many years, notable recent exhibition include "Intersections: Relation to and yet not (homage to Mondrian)" in 2010 at The Phillips Collection in Washington DC, "And Debris" at Galerie Lelong New York in 2011 and "News from Biathlon" at Anthony Meier Fine Arts in San Francisco earlier this year.

Shepherd's work forms part of numerous important private and public collections across the United States and Europe including the Albright-Know Art Gallery Buffalo, Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis Museum of Art, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston as well as The Phillips Collection Washington.

For further information or to receive reproduction quality images of the works exhibited please do not hesitate to contact the gallery.