

JACK HANLEY GALLERY

Alain Biltreyst

Oh My Days

25 May - 25 June 2017

Opening Reception

Thursday, May 25, 6-8pm

Jack Hanley is pleased to present *Oh My Days*, Alain Biltreyst's second solo exhibition with the gallery. The exhibition features two sets of new paintings that embed imageries of everyday life in geometric abstractions. In addition to Biltreyst's standardized painting of book-sized 10.2 x 7.5 inch panels, the exhibition debuts a series of large scale paintings.

By applying heavy layers of acrylic paint onto thick wooden panels, Biltreyst creates a visual language of poetic simplicity. Shape and color, triangles, grids, and parallelograms form the imagery of the artist's pure abstractions. Behind the seemingly unblemished geometric shapes, the paintings reveal carefully crafted imperfections: slight variations in color, paint blobs and casually overpainted surfaces emphasize the painterly gesture and distance the work from computer generated designs and graphics.

Graphic designs for advertising, commercial signage on the side of trucks or planes and designs of fences or gates serve as the primary source of Biltreyst's imagery. While the paintings clearly refer to historic abstractions of a modernist canon, the works simultaneously reference everyday contemporary life and objects. The artist's carefully chosen details of his surroundings draw attention to early designs that are frequently overlooked because of their visual ubiquity people have become accustomed to.

The object-like thickness of the panels along with their uniformity in size reference the seriality of their designs and objects. Bringing these mass-produced designs back to life in individually hand crafted paintings, the artist's reference to pop culture has come full circle.

Alain Biltreyst (b. 1965) lives and works in Brussels, Belgium. Recent solo exhibitions include Not Just Because at Devening Projects, Chicago, Elsewhere at Loods12, Wetteren, Belgium, Slow, Simple, Sweet at Brand New Gallery, Milan, Dear Everyday at Nogueras Blanchard, Madrid, Geo Land at Jack Hanley Gallery. The artist also participated in Minnesota Street Project, John Berggruen Gallery, San Francisco, The B&W Project #5 at Transmitter, Brooklyn, Form Follows Function? at Art Center Hugo Voeten, Herentals, Belgium, Spaghetti Code at Viewing Room, Los Angeles.

For more information please contact info@jackhanley.com

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