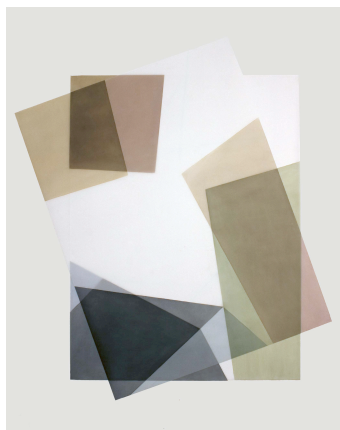


## THE ASSEMBLANCE OF PRESENCE

New work by Russell Maltz, John Monteith, Lars Strandh and Mark Williams

**Opening reception: August 31, 15.00 – 18.00**

Exhibition from August 31 until November 9, 2013



Mark Williams, *Spacer #8*, 2013, oil on cardboard, 21.5 x 37.7 cm; Lars Strandh, *Untitled*, 2013, acrylic on canvas, 50 x 50 cm; Russell Maltz, *S.P. / Black #412*, 2012, Polyurethane enamel on 4 plywood panels suspended from a galvanized nail, 42.8 x 42.5 x 10.2 cm, John Monteith, *(de)construction (re)construction #12*, 2012, 129.5 x 115.6 cm (clockwise)

This group exhibition at the Wenger gallery is by four artists from the USA and Norway, all of whom with a contemporary geometric-abstract form of communication. They further develop almost a century of the constructive art initiated in 1915 by Kasimir Malewitsch with his painted icon *The Black Square*. As indicated by its title *The Assemblance of Presence*, this exhibition unites four very differently vital formulations of constructive contemporary art.

**Mark Williams** (\*1950 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; lives in New York) creates subtly balanced compositions with the basic elements of geometrical art - vertical, horizontal and rectangular surfaces. He counteracts the rigour of geometry by allowing picturesque elements to take effect. His artistic craftsmanship is thus revealed through visible brushstrokes or translucent layers of colour. Equally picturesque is his colour palette, which apart from monochrome shades also includes finely nuanced hues such as dark claret

red, earthy orange or deep blue. By painting in oils, acryl, alkyd or enamel, Mark Williams can vary his surface effects accordingly.

**Lars Strandh** (\*1961 in Gothenburg, Sweden; lives in Oslo) has focused for more than a decade on monochromatic imaging, the most radical form of constructive art. He is primarily concerned with colour, its nature and appearance. While seemingly monochromatic when seen from a distance, at a closer look the homogeneous surfaces of his pictures reveal strokes in various different hues. In a time-consuming process of meditation, the artist places stroke after stroke, layer by layer, always applying his brush horizontally. The horizontal structure of his pictures is vaguely reminiscent of landscapes and lakes, so that we are drawn to sink thoughtfully into his worlds of colour. Lars Strandh manages to inspire monochromy with imagination and sensitivity.

**Russell Maltz** (\*1952 in Brooklyn, NY; lives in New York) develops concepts for artistic interventions and installations that share with constructive art a preference for geometric structures. He creates his works using construction materials. By stacking, bundling and painting breeze blocks, wooden laths or pipes, he stages artworks often at unexpected locations in public places. He upgrades the identity of trivial building materials to significant artworks, thereby raising the question as to where the threshold lies between the mundane and the artistic. The artist's intentions are also reflected in his wall objects of stacked plywood panels marked with colour zones. Hanging on a galvanized nail, they find their own equilibrium to form an ensemble of multilayered geometrical figures. And they reveal the characteristic identity of Russell Maltz's art: raw, straightforward and surprising.

**John Monteith** (\*1973 in Newmarket, Ontario, Canada; lives in Berlin) is interested in urban locations with their fast-moving way of life, which he also explores on his extended travels – lately in China, Vietnam and North Korea. These were also the inspiration for his picture series *(de)construction (re)construction*, based on architecture photographs that the artist has transformed into constructive art as oil paintings full of concentrated power. He superimposes several sheets of transparent paper painted with geometrical figures, which then displace, fan out and rotate with respect to each other to result in dynamic spatial collages. His high-precision painting style and pastel colour nuances make these pictures delicate witnesses to a new generation of geometric painting.

The Wenger Gallery is participating in "Kunst 13 Zurich", the 19th International Contemporary Art Fair, from October 31 until November 3, 2013, at stand A8 in ABB Hall 550, Zurich-Oerlikon.