

Troels Wörsel

Paintings

Exhibition: May 3 – July 25, 2008

Private view: May 2, 6 – 9 p.m.

Location: Charlottenstrasse 2, 10969 Berlin

ScheiblerMitte is pleased to announce the first solo show of Troels Wörsel (*1950) in Berlin. The Danish artist received international acclaim as Denmark's representative at the 52nd Biennale di Venezia in 2007. His work stands out for its continuous investigation of semantics, its bold exploration of the limits of the medium, and its vibrant dialogue with art history.



Troels Wörsel, *Untitled*, 2008
Acrylic on canvas, 200 x 200 cm

"The paintings I have executed on the back of the canvas relate to a certain idea in modernist painting that originates with cubism and early abstract painting and can be traced all the way to Roy Lichtenstein's flat images of flat objects—i.e., comics—as well as to Morris Louis' so-called stained canvasses, in which the paint has soaked into the canvas and become one with the surface. It was a notion advocated rather emphatically by Greenberg, to the extent that it became dogma and didn't allow for any deviation. [T]his...very restrictive idea of what painting is and can do...leads to the absurd consequence that Morris Louis, by logical necessity, is a better painter than Rembrandt, because his work is flatter—and that's piffle. This flatness is the subject of my paintings executed on the back of the canvas because, in the modernist discussion on absolute flatness, the next obvious step is to see through the back towards the front so that the picture becomes even flatter. This is not the case, however, because it's a painterly trick, a representation of the reverse that is achieved by the real frame: the stretcher. The stretcher lends the rest of the painting significance, which means that the problem of flatness is no longer a formalistic matter but one of semantics. All problems in painting are fundamentally semantic; a painting is a semantic object. It means something, and that's why we occupy ourselves with it."

Troels Wörsel's Biennale paintings are currently on view at the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen (until May 12). He has received numerous awards including the Carnegie Art Award and is represented in such prestigious institutional collections as the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen, the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art in Humlebæk, the Moderna Museet in Stockholm, Musée national d'art moderne Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris, the Städtisches Kunstmuseum Bonn, and the Bayerische Staatsgemälde-Sammlungen in Munich.