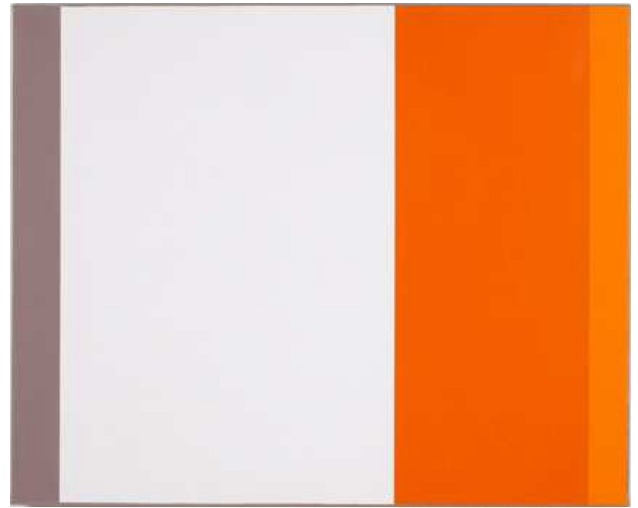


**MEDIA RELEASE – September 2010
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Virginia Coventry

4-30 September 2010



Liverpool Street Gallery is pleased to announce the inaugural exhibition of renowned Australian abstract artist Virginia Coventry. The exhibition of new work will be on view from 4 – 30 September 2010 and will be opened by Terence Maloon, Curator of Special Exhibitions, Art Gallery of New South Wales on Thursday 9 September, 6-8pm.

Virginia Coventry's work over the last forty years has explored relationships between light, spatiality and colour. She uses the language of abstraction to translate our innermost responses to embodied experience. Most recently, her work has proposed "an 'acoustics' of colour"— a concept that picks up on to the way we use the terms *tones*, *keys* and *itches* in thinking and talking about both colour and sound. Coventry's particular association of the dynamic operation of colour in pictorial space with the behaviour of sounds in aural space has allowed her to find fresh ways of working with the possibilities of painting.

For this exhibition, Coventry has created an ensemble of new medium to large-scale paintings conceived specifically for the gallery space. For Coventry both the paintings and the gallery are thought of as spatial fields where the dimensions, the distribution of colours, and the crossing of natural and artificial light might be brought into relationship. Utilising metallic and interference pigments and employing clever compositional strategies, Coventry creates 'live', vibrant surfaces that continually change in response to different light and angles of view. Her work in installation creates a mood of joy, calm and contemplation.

In her essay for Virginia Coventry's 2010 exhibition, Sue Best writes, "In Coventry's paintings, the literalism of minimalism, the need to attend carefully to what is there, is complemented by the absorbing power of colour and the exquisite feeling it generates." (Susan Best, "Colour, Composition and Non-Composition: New work by Virginia Coventry", Liverpool Street Gallery, 2010).

Terence Maloon states, "The most conspicuous deviation from Minimalism in Coventry's recent work is that it revels in the once-disavowed quality of 'opticality,' giving generous play to spatial illusion, making a feature of elusive, shifting surfaces infused with metallic pigments and suffused with ringingly bright, saturated hues, the colours exquisitely pitched and infinitesimally nuanced." (Terence Maloon, "Echolocation: Virginia Coventry at the Tin Sheds", Sydney, 2007).

Born in 1942, Virginia Coventry studied painting in Melbourne (RMIT) and at the Slade School, University College, London. Her artistic practice has primarily involved painting and drawing, while she produced photo-based works and installations throughout the 1970's. Coventry has exhibited at Watters Gallery since 1981 and widely in non-commercial galleries and museums in Australia and overseas since 1976. Coventry's work is represented in many significant public and private collections nationwide including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Monash University Museum of Art, Melbourne, and the New England Regional Art Museum. Coventry lives and works in Sydney.

For further information, interviews or images please contact Juliet Gauchat: jg@liverpoolstgalleries.com.au or 8353 7799.