

DAVID SERISIER

gallium sky

2 August – 4 September 2014



Liverpool Street Gallery is delighted to announce David Serisier's forthcoming solo exhibition, *Gallium Sky*. The exhibition will be on view from 2 August – 4 September 2014, opening on Thursday 7 August 2014, 6-8pm. Following on from the *Serisier House* private architectural commission and accompanying publication (2012), Serisier returns to the gallery space with a suite of non-representational colour paintings.

The focus of Serisier's paintings has been directed towards the perception of colour and light, questioning issues of materiality and immateriality. His work captures the ephemeral and transitory effects of light as it interacts with space and matter. Evocatively named as a science fictional or speculative universe, the *Gallium Sky* paintings are re-formations of James Turrell's LED coloured light event, *Aten Reign* (2013), which transformed the Guggenheim New York for the duration of the American artist's recent exhibition. With no first hand experience of the *Aten Reign* event, Serisier's motivation stems from his curiosity at the proliferation of digital images recording the event. That these seemingly artificial sky images exist as a by-product of art tourism furthers Serisier's fictional universe in which the photographers collectively present a unified artifice.

The *Gallium Sky* paintings explore the boundary between individual intent and collective outcome. In doing so, Serisier acknowledges the existence of a grey zone between the ubiquitous status of LED colour and the continuing tenet of Turrell's colour system, which Serisier mines in his exploration of digital colour as a unique subject for painting. Moreover, where Turrell used the Guggenheim's architecture to frame coloured light, Serisier allows colour to engage directly with the architecture as an entity in its own right. The resultant paintings describe a palimpsest of digital histories in which colour remains the core subject regardless of medium.

Gallium Sky will comprise an installation of thirty-six 61cm square paintings in a multitude of colours, a painting consisting of three large pink ellipses, and three 2 metre square paintings in blue, spearmint green and deep violet. These paintings demand time of the viewer, where meditation is rewarded by the complexity of colour and feather-light texture. Serisier masterfully layers oil and wax upon the linen to create velvety, decadent

surfaces. He explores the ideas of transparency, opacity, density and substance through his luscious application of paint. Serisier states:

“The paint has been applied through the action of spreading small amounts of colour across the surface of the canvas and, in so spreading the particles of pigment as to enable a blending of the past, present and future painted histories. This fine spreading of grains of material across the surface results in a field of paint that refuses to allow the eye to rest on any individual moment or mark, thereby creating a subtly dislocated surface.” **(David Serisier, 2007)**

QUOTE SELECTION

“I’m interested in how colour relates to the everyday, even though the colours are sourced from high artist colour systems, it’s the ephemeral event as captured and presented by digital systems and various processes of re-formation.” **(Sebastian Goldspink, “Chasing the Ephemeral,” (Inside) Australia Design Review, Issue 82, July/August 2014, p41)**

“The artist’s process involves the slow accumulation of fine layers of oil paint, which subtly transform under different lighting conditions.” **(“Serisier House”, Art & Australia, Issue 50, February 2013, p180)**

“In his recent paintings Serisier confronts the nature of light and the relativities of perception, how we see colour, what it is we are seeing, how it responds and feels.” **(William Wright, “David Serisier at Liverpool Street Gallery”, Liverpool Street Gallery, 2010)**

“... Serisier has spent a lifetime investigating and experimenting with nuances of colour, surface and the contradictions of visual perception.” **(Prue Gibson, Australian Art Review, Feb-April 2010)**

“Like all minimal art, these new works require our time to engage with the concepts they mine and, in return reward with the lightness of a revered space.” **(Gina Fairley, “David Serisier: Towards the White Buffalo”, Eyeline, 72, 2010)**

“Anyone who has watched evening fog roll into the temperate Pacific Northwest will have some sense of the chromatic and textural articulation of David Serisier’s new colour field paintings”. **(Robert Maloney, Art in America, 2003)**

BIOGRAPHY

Born in Australia in 1958, David Serisier has been painting for thirty years. He attended the University of Sydney completing a Bachelor of Arts in English and Australian Literature in 1979. This was followed by a Bachelor of Arts (Visual Arts) at the City Art Institute, Sydney from 1984-87, and post-graduate studies in painting at the New York Studio School from 1988-92. He received several scholarships including the *Milton Avery Scholarship* for Painting. In 2013, Serisier was awarded a PhD by the University of New South Wales. Serisier has exhibited worldwide, most notably in New York. He has also received numerous awards and scholarships, including the *Australia Council, Visual Arts and Crafts Fund Development Grant – Greene Street New York Residency*. His work has been exhibited in and is included in many noteworthy institutions and museum collections including the National Gallery of Australia, Canberra; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; and the Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth. Since the 1980s, Serisier has travelled extensively throughout Australia and to Europe, America, North Africa, and Japan. He now makes annual journeys across the United States to visit the greats of American abstraction, whilst documenting the vast visual landscape of America’s cultural and geographical extremes. Serisier is a lecturer in painting at the National Art School, Sydney.

IMAGE

gallium sky painting sequence no.1-36, 2014, oil and wax on linen, 61 x 61 cm

For further information about the artist and exhibition, or if you require high resolution images, please contact Liverpool Street Gallery on 02 8353 7799 or info@liverpoolstgalleries.com.au