



JEAN-PAUL NAJAR FOUNDATION
a contemporary art museum



ADS SECURITIES

Olivier Mosset: Abstraction



November 7th, 2017 – February 28th, 2018

Curated by Hervé Mikaeloff

Jean-Paul Najar Foundation
45 Alserkal Avenue

www.jpnaifoundation.com
#jpnfmuseum

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, DUBAI – The Jean-Paul Najar Foundation (JPNF) is pleased to present a solo exhibition of works by Swiss-born, Tucson-based conceptual artist Olivier Mosset. Curated by Hervé Mikaeloff, *Olivier Mosset: Abstraction* showcases works that span over 50 years of Mosset's prolific artistic career. Held in partnership with ADS Securities and The Embassy of Switzerland in the United Arab Emirates, Mosset's works will be on view at 45 Alserkal Avenue from November 7th 2017 through to February 28th 2018.

Exhibiting in the Middle East for the first time, *Olivier Mosset: Abstraction* coincides with the anniversary of the founding of BMPT, an acronym for the Paris-based minimalist art collective formed in 1967 of which Mosset was a member along with Daniel Buren, Michel Parmentier and Niele Toroni. One of the leading representatives of minimalism in the 1960's, the BMPT movement opposed the new avant-garde in France, rejecting expressiveness in favour of practical artistic methods.

Mosset creates neutrality and autonomy in his paintings through the use of basic compositional techniques. His experimentation with forms, repetitive patterns and geometric motifs, shows "an urgency to start everything again from scratch, to interrogate the validity of painting"¹.

Later, in 1970's New York, Mosset focused on a long series of monochrome paintings. Co-founding the Radical Painting Group with artist Marcia Hafif, radical referred to an implied social and political stance, as well as a return to the "root" of painting.

Sharing a similar principle to BMPT, the Radical Painting Group placed emphasis on the medium itself and the different methods of application. Of his pursuit of objectivity and the physical roots of painting Olivier

¹ Edmond Charrière in *The Olivier Mosset Collection: From the Artist to the Collector*, 2014

Mosset comments, “a good painting helps to define its modes of production, distribution and the system that allows it to exist.”²

On view at the JPNF are Mosset’s iconic identical oil paintings, featuring a black circle in the center of a white square canvas. Painting over 200 of these between 1966 and 1974, the concept of systematic repetition of the motif, vanishing aura and loss of authority, which is inherent to this group of works has become archetypal of Mosset’s philosophy and minimalist aesthetic. Following on from the circle paintings the exhibition continues on to Mosset’s monochromes featuring canvases of pure colour surface, scale and pattern.

Inhabiting the space within which they are exhibited, Mosset continues to evolve these themes of surface and scale in a new series of works painted in his Tucson studio earlier this year. Revealed to the public for the first time, this group of multi-panel chromatic works applied on a vast surface, vividly contrast blocks of orange, green and blue against pure white.

Refusing to indulge the self of either the artist or the viewer, Mosset’s new work continues to confront the painting’s materiality and in turn the materiality of space within which it is found. Primarily Mosset returns to the idea that a painting is a material existing in space and that the artist’s presence in the work only interrupts the experience the painting may provide.

Core to the Jean-Paul Najar Foundation’s mission to engage the community, the exhibition will be accompanied by a comprehensive public and educational program. Including Olivier Mosset’s participation in a panel discussion as part of Abu Dhabi Art’s curatorial talks program.

EDITORS NOTES

Olivier Mosset Biography

Olivier Mosset was born in 1944 in Bern, Switzerland. Son of a chemical engineer and grandson of a watchmaker, Olivier Mosset undertook classical studies in Neuchâtel, Switzerland. Mosset settled in Paris in 1965, after a temporary return to Switzerland to obtain a federal maturity. After his formative years in Paris, and the experience with the BMPT group, he left France for the United States in 1977. He moved to New York and shared a workshop on Broadway with the Swiss painter Grégoire Müller. Mosset’s minimalist, monochromatic abstractions have been featured in several solo and group exhibitions around the world. They have been featured in museum shows, private galleries, and institutions from the Fifth Biennial of Paris at the Museum of Modern Art in Paris in 1967 to the Whitney Biennial in 2008. The artist’s work can also be found in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the Centre Georges Pompidou, Migros Museum in Zurich and the Cantonal Museum of Fine Arts in Lausanne, and the MAMCO, Museum of Modern Art in Geneva. Olivier Mosset currently lives and works in Tucson, Arizona and New York City.

About the JPNF

The Jean-Paul Najar Foundation for Contemporary Art is a non-profit ICOM registered private museum, gathering abstract European and American art from the 1960s through today. The JPNF is also home to a

² Olivier Mosset in interview by Caterina D’Alessandro, *Arteectrica*, 2012



remarkable archive tracing forty years of artist-collector exchanges. Education is central to the museum's mission. We are committed to presenting an educational program that

promotes a spirit of discovery and inquiry that engages our diverse communities. The JPNF is designed by Mario Jossa, of Marcel Breuer and Associates, and is presented in partnership with Alserkal Avenue in Dubai.

www.jpnajarfoundation.com | @JPNFMUSEUM
JPNF is open Sunday – Saturday, 11AM – 6PM

About ADS Securities

ADS Securities is an Abu Dhabi based international financial services company, dedicated to providing the highest quality investment opportunities for institutional, private and retail clients. It offers unique online trading, global market, investment banking and wealth management services. Established in 2011, ADS Securities is part of the ADS Holding group and in a short period of time has established itself as a leading forex, bullion and online trading firm. It is regulated and licensed by the UAE Central Bank, and has a capital of US\$585 million.

ADS Securities is headquartered in Abu Dhabi, the capital of the UAE. A regional HQ office, ADS Securities Hong Kong Limited, regulated by the SFC (AXC847), was launched in December 2013. ADS Securities Singapore Pte was established in Singapore in 2011, and provides customer support across the region. In the UK, ADS Securities London Limited is authorised and regulated by the FCA (577453), and is a wholly owned subsidiary of ADS Securities' parent company.

For more information please go to www.ads-securities.com

About the Embassy of Switzerland in the United Arab Emirates

Established in 1982, the Embassy of Switzerland in the United Arab Emirates covers all matters concerning diplomatic and consular relations between the United Arab Emirates and the Swiss Confederation. The mission also represents Swiss interests in the areas of political, economic and financial affairs, legal arrangements, security, international cooperation, science, education and culture. Furthermore, the Swiss Embassy hosts the Defense Attaché Office, which represents the Swiss Armed Forces in the region, as well as a Regional Office for International Cooperation. The Swiss Consulate General in Dubai hosts the Swiss Business Hub, a branch of Switzerland Global Enterprise that focusses its efforts on the promotion of trade and business.

The Embassy of Switzerland believes that Cultural diplomacy plays a crucial role in building relations among states in contemporary international relations, as it might serve as an effective instrument in supporting national foreign policy objectives or a constructive channel for inclusion and promotion of peace.

For more information please go to www.eda.admin.ch/uae.



PUBLIC & EDUCATION PROGRAM

NOVEMBER 2017

Tuesday, November 8 - Saturday, November 11

Jean-Paul Najjar Foundation (JPNF) at ABU DHABI ART
Community Section, Booth CP-17

Tuesday November 8

The Role of Private Foundations and Public Collections
Panel discussion part of Abu Dhabi Art's Curatorial Talks Program
12:00 – 1:00 PM

Panel includes Olivier Mosset, artist, Herve Mikaeloff, Independent Curator, Venetia Porter, Assistant Keeper and Curator of Islamic and Contemporary Middle East Art at the British Museum, Mohammed Afkhami, Collector. The panel is moderated by JPNF Founder, Deborah Najjar.

Saturday, November 25

FAMILY PROGRAM: Painting with Geometry
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Circle. Form. Panel

Inspired by the iconic works of Swiss artist Olivier Mosset, children choose simple geometric forms to learn about shape, line and color. They will also produce studies and write a paragraph explaining their shapes of choice.

For more information please contact The Collective Communications:

London | US - Felicity Carter:

GCC - Georgina Brace:

Sponsored by:



Presented in Partnership with Alserkal Avenue

Supported by:

A.

END