

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE



Georgia Russell in her studio, Méru, 2021
photo: Nicolas Brasseur, Courtesy Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne Paris St. Moritz

GEORGIA RUSSELL

Ajouré

September, 3 – October 30, 2021
Opening on Friday, September 3, 2021, 11 am – 10 pm
a DC OPEN GALLERIES 2021 event
The artist will be present.

Galerie Karsten Greve is delighted to show a solo exhibition featuring new work by Scottish artist Georgia Russell, who has been represented by the gallery since 2010. The show, which will be Georgia Russell's sixth solo exhibition with Galerie Karsten Greve, is a DC OPEN GALLERIES 2021 event. New works on canvas and paper will be presented, created at her Méru studio between 2020 and 2021 during a worldwide state of crisis that was characterised by confinement and social distancing measures. By contrast, Georgia Russell has created her most recent works by breaking through matter. Her pieces epitomise the idea of the permeability of matter and breaking through the surface – *ajouré* – to bring this materiality to life by deliberately incorporating daylight and air into space.

Born in Elgin, Scotland, in 1974, Georgia Russell, studied fine art at the Robert Gordon University of Aberdeen (until 1997) and the Royal College of Art, graduating with an MA in printmaking in 2000. Thanks to a scholarship from the Royal College of Art, the artist set up a studio in Paris. Her work has regularly been presented internationally in solo and group exhibitions. Works by Georgia Russell are also held in notable private and public collections, such as the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, the Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris, the E.ON Art Collection, Düsseldorf, and the Museum Pfalzgalerie Kaiserslautern. The artist has received multiple awards. Georgia Russell lives and works in Méru, north of Paris.

A radical gesture on which Georgia Russell's oeuvre is based is dissection of her working material. She works with surgical precision using the clinician's dissecting knife for her own purposes, as an artist's pencil, to carefully fillet photos, music scores, prints, entire books, painted canvases, or, serving as her raw material for amazing art objects: "For me, cutting up is an artistic act of liberation. Like drawing, but instead of a pencil I use a scalpel," this is how, a few years ago, the artist characterised her method of working. Her

GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE

approach has become more complex; during the last few years, she is increasingly replacing the pencil with the brush. By painting, the artist has managed to liberate herself, so to speak, daring to leap into a sculptural sphere in which there is, apart from colour, more air and light than materiality. The idea behind these pieces is "to open up a flat surface to let the light in, to let the air through so that it's breathing like lungs ..."

The current exhibition at Karsten Greve's Cologne gallery space creates an unusual framework for a presentation tailored to the location showcasing monumental pictures in fascinating bright colours. Whereas in her early work, the artist used colour to create intricate formal structures, she now focuses on an intuitive interplay of colour and light. Inspired by meticulous observations of nature in her immediate surroundings, Georgia Russell processes notions of subtle movement and growth in her intensely coloured works created recently. For Georgia Russell, colour is "a living and moving material that has a life of its own, like water or wind." The use of colour decisively intensifies the effect of space and dynamism in Georgia Russell's paintings. As a result, the onlooker can discover an almost meditative work that is characterised by a deliberate rhythm, and creates a unique network in a tactile surface.

Accompanying the exhibition, the following catalogues published by Galerie Karsten Greve are available:

Georgia Russell, texts: Anne Bécharde-Léauté and Valentine Oncins; Britta Buhmann, Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne, 2015 (English/German; French/Italian), 45.00 euros.

Georgia Russell. Time and Tide, texts: Mouna Mekouar; Heinz Peter Schwerfel, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris, 2016 (French/English/German), 20.00 euros.

Georgia Russell. Paintings, texts: Nicholas Fox Weber; Daniel Kothenschulte, Galerie Karsten Greve, Paris, 2019 (French/English/German), 35.00 euros.



Kindly supported by

STIFTUNGKUNSTFONDS

ABOUT GALERIE KARSTEN GREVE

Karsten Greve has been a successful art dealer for fifty-two years. He opened his first gallery in 1973 with a solo exhibition of Yves Klein and Cy Twombly in Cologne. He then opened additional premises, one in Paris (Rue Debelleyne) in 1989 and one in St. Moritz (Via Maistra) in 1999. Galerie Karsten Greve ranked from the beginning as a leading gallery worldwide and is regularly represented at international art fairs such as the Art Basel shows, FIAC and TEFAF. The gallery organises important individual exhibitions of renowned international artists such as Lucio Fontana, Piero Manzoni, Joseph Cornell, Willem De Kooning, and WOLS. Its program is determined by the owner's personal contact to artists of the international post-1945 avant-garde, such as Cy Twombly, Louise Bourgeois, Jannis Kounellis, John Chamberlain, and Pierre Soulages. Karsten Greve's long-standing collaboration with artists such as Gotthard Graubner, Pierrette Bloch and Leiko Ikemura has contributed significantly to them achieving worldwide recognition. The gallery, which is representing about thirty artists, is constantly expanding its portfolio to include rising young artists like Georgia Russell, Claire Morgan, Gideon Rubin, and Raúl Illarramendi. Galerie Karsten Greve is equally well known for its solo exhibitions and its highly ambitious accompanying catalogue productions published by the gallery.

MEDIA CONTACT

Dr Cornelia Manegold

Tel. +49 (0)221 2 57 10 12

c.manegold@galerie-karsten-greve.de

We are happy to provide you with images of the works shown in the exhibition.