



JUSTINE FRISCHMANN

commentary by
George Lawson

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on the occasion of the exhibitions:

JUSTINE FRISCHMANN

VOLTANY Booth B12

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GEORGE LAWSON GALLERY

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LIMELIGHT

six recent paintings by Justine Frischmann

Painter Justine Frischmann is a British expatriate now based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Her trajectory makes a good story. She had already gained prominence as a rocker in her early 20s with her much-heralded band, *Elastica*, before turning her back on that realm to enroll in the Buddhist curriculum at The Naropa Institute, subsequently emerging somewhat reconsidered, with a disciplined painting practice. Many painters concern themselves in their work with the effects of light. Frischmann straddles quite polarized worlds with the light she explores, having traversed the spotlight, the urban glare of media scrutiny and stress, to the coastal light of the rural North Bay's rolling hills and fog-mitigated ambience that promotes self examination. In the energy and immediacy of her gesture, but not without premeditation, she achieves visual equivalencies for the punk ethic she was drawn to in the London of the '90s. She creates a culture within a culture. Deploying a kind of light refraction through the use of mixed media, oil paint, acrylic spray enamel, and repurposed photography, she balances urban and natural inferences, and captures an aura somewhere between limelight and inner light. In the process, Frischmann achieves a benevolent but charged phosphorescence.

Painting on a thin aluminum panel with an inset back frame that floats the surface slightly off the wall, Frischmann presents the painted plane in a manner that tends to heighten the contrast between the corporeal and ephemeral elements in her approach. She juxtaposes gesture and architecture, mass tone and prismatic translucence, improvisation and a considered physicality, all in the service of an art of threshold states. Rather than simply stacking the three media she employs,

she shuffles them, with the fluorescent spray acting as an arbitrator between the origami folds of her photo-based imagery and the fatty roll of the high-valued oil paint layer she smears on. The sublimation print process involves heating the aluminum plate and embedding the inks within the grain of the surface, hence starting the image back behind the plane, and imbuing the overall picture with a somewhat holographic effect. This shift is all the more pronounced by its offset to the impasto pull of her wide brush marks. The opposites work as well as they do together precisely because they are strange bedfellows.

Considering the choices made by an artist that went from concert music to paint—that is, from a collective and immersive experience to a solitary and singular one—the question comes up of why. Why paint? Something of Frischmann’s current art captures more than a simple equivalent of the tropes of an alternative social scene. The deep memory of painting as a medium pushes her work past fashion into the realm of what is perennial in the human condition.

The equivalencies she sets up mirror such basic building blocks as vulnerability and adaptation, loss and recovery, growth and discovery, and forgiveness. Painting and the life of a painter seem to accommodate the scope of Frischmann’s ambition more readily than the music scene she left behind, not only in sheer expression, but in her reach for an organizing principle, a position taken both in and out of the light, in response to things as they are, readily shifting as they do from brightness to shadow and back again.

George Lawson

San Francisco, January, 2016

lam·bent
/ˈlambént/
adjective

(of light or fire) glowing, gleaming, or flickering with a soft radiance.
“the magical, lambent light of the north”
synonyms: flickering, fluttering, incandescent, twinkling, radiant, brilliant
“the lambent light from a distant campfire”

Lambent #74, 2015
oil, acrylic spray enamel over sublimation print on aluminum
30 x 30 in. (76 x 76 cm)
cat. no. JUF015



Lambent #75, 2015
oil, acrylic spray enamel over sublimation print on aluminum
30 x 30 in. (76 x 76 cm)
cat. no. JUF017



Lambent #76, 2016
oil, acrylic spray enamel over sublimation print on aluminum
40 x 40 in. (101.6 x 101.6 cm)
cat. no. JUF018



Lambent #77, 2016 oil, acrylic spray enamel over sublimation print
on aluminum
40 x 40 in. (101.6 x 101.6 cm)
cat. no. JUF019



Lambent #83, 2016
oil, acrylic spray enamel over sublimation print on aluminum
40 x 40 in. (101.6 x 101.6 cm)
cat. no. JUF020



Lambent #84, 2016
oil, acrylic spray enamel over sublimation print on aluminum
40 x 40 in. (101.6 x 101.6 cm)
cat. no. JUF021





JUSTINE FRISCHMANN

EDUCATION

1989 BSc. (Arch.), University College of London

2007 Naropa University, CO (Contemplative Arts)

SELECTED SOLO SHOWS

2016 *Justine Frischmann*, George Lawson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Justine Frischmann, VOLTA NY, New York, NY

2013 *The Battle of Faith and Doubt*, Unspeakable Projects, San Francisco, CA

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2015 *White Album*, George Lawson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

2014 *Women in the Dunes*, George Lawson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Emerging Artists of the Bay, Marin MOCA, San Rafael, CA (curated by Kenneth Baker)

Summer Invitational, Life on Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2013 *New Neon: Light and Paint*, Bedford Gallery, Leshner Center for the Arts, CA

NutureArt, Bernaducci Meisel Gallery, New York, NY

What I Like About You, Parallel Art Space, NY

What I Like About You (N), Imogen Holloway Gallery, Saugerties, NY

Millennial Abstractions, Marin Community Foundation, CA

See You at the Show, Part 2, Roll Up Gallery, San Francisco, CA

See You at the Show, Part 3, Public Works, San Francisco, CA

In the Event of My Death, Unspeakable Projects, San Francisco, CA

ALLTOGETHERNOW, The Coin Locker, Brooklyn, NY

Wonder, Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley, CA

12 x 12, Middle Tennessee State University Todd Gallery, Murfreesboro, TN

AP 25th Anniversary Show, Sloan Fine Art, New York, NY

AWARDS

2013 Marmite Prize for Painting, Shortlist

INPA 3, 3rd International Painting Annual Juried Competition

CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2014 *Brooklyn Bridge*, George Lawson Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Do It Yourself, Brooklyn, NY

Avatar, NIAD Center, CA

GEORGE LAWSON GALLERY

