

rosenfeld porcini

press release

emmanuel barcilon
on the edge of visibility

19 february – 2 april 2016

private view : thursday 18 february
6:30-8:45pm

37 rathbone street
london w1t 1nz



Untitled, 2015, pure pigments and varnish on wood, 153x200cm

rosenfeld porcini is proud to present French painter Emmanuel Barcilon's exhibition 'On the Edge of Visibility'. This follows his participation at the gallery's second themed group exhibition 'The Continuation of Romance: Painting – An Interrupted Discourse' (2013), which gathered fourteen international artists working with painting; a first inaugural UK solo show 'Penetrating Stillness' (2014) at rosenfeld porcini and his recent exhibition 'A Turbulent Silence' (2015) presented as a collateral event during the Venice Biennale. The show will feature new paintings by the artist.

The kernel of Emmanuel Barcilon's practice is concerned with an exploration of the possibilities of painting. Since his inaugural exhibition 'Penetrating Stillness', his approach has become far more single-minded. Previously the artist's works could be divided into two distinct categories: The first being a continual exploration of painting, whilst the other was literally a visual diary recounting his concerns, obsessions and curiosity. Barcilon would integrate, partially buried within the layers of paint, drawings, photographs, text and graphic reproductions taken from a wide variety of sources. However, he has now eschewed this very autobiographical approach to concentrate on a spiritual investigation into colour, memory and the transformative effect of paint.

Emmanuel Barcilon can take almost a year to complete a painting as colour is poured over a wooden support then sanded and reworked many times over; each fresh coat never completely eliminating the previous one. It is only when the painting is finally finished that he applies the varnish. This gives a sense of memory to the work, which in some instances is immediately visible, whilst in others, is almost imperceptible to the naked eye. The paintings' unfathomable depth feels very much like when one stares into the sea and the life, which appeared previously to be just below the surface reveals itself to be far deeper. Although, he is decidedly a 'painter', the memory of the different colours, which the work has undergone, are visible on the side. Barcilon is not interested in the build up of material, maintaining a resolutely flat surface, but more the illusion of flatness, which, on closer inspection, reveals the opposite. Yet strangely, the concern to keep the frontal surface of the painting

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completely flat is belied by the heavy layers of colour on the sides of the panel, which ultimately, from certain angles, make his work akin to a sculptural relief.

Emmanuel Barcilon has forged his own path, uninterested in any of the painterly fashions currently in vogue. Having begun to work as a painter in a moment, artistically speaking, when the contemporary art world was obsessed with minimalism and then above all 'concept', he has always stressed the need for the emotional impact of art. His sense of space and structure as well as his bravery with colour, gives the works their originality; the paintings manage to be visually rich and spiritual at the same time. Finally as attention returns to the grand lines of art history -painting, drawing and sculpture, Barcilon's artistic obsessions have become suddenly topical.

Notes to the editors

Emmanuel Barcilon (b. 1967, Paris) graduated from the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Cergy. The artist currently lives and works in Paris.

Barcilon had numerous international solo and group exhibitions: Penetrating Stillness, rosenfeld porcini, London; The Continuation of Romance: Painting - An Interrupted Discourse, rosenfeld porcini, London; Contemporary Art Centre, La Rochelle; Contemporary Art Centre, Atelier d'Estienne, Pont-Scorff; Biennale d'Issy; Art Senat, Orangerie du Jardin du Luxembourg, Paris. The artist's paintings are regularly acquired for private and public collections: ESKFF - Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation, New-York; Collection off Steven J. Guttman (Centre Pompidou Foundation); Collection de la ville d' Issy-les-Moulineaux; Centre Culturel Franco Nigérien de Niamey. Barcilon's most recent exhibition A Turbulent Silence was shown during the opening month of the 56th Venice Biennale at the Sala Convegna de S.Apollonia in Venice, which then travelled to the Museo di Asolo in Asolo.

Rosenfeld Porcini Gallery

Founded in June 2011 by Ian Rosenfeld and Dario Porcini, rosenfeld porcini occupies a prime location in the heart of the dynamic gallery district of London's Fitzrovia with 3,000 square feet of gallery space. rosenfeld porcini has a strong international outlook. The gallery values a cross referencing approach both through exhibitions curated around themes in art and a cultural program focusing on unique events involving artists across all disciplines - visual arts, performance and music , which are meant to challenge perceptions.

Exhibition Schedule

8 April - 27 May 2016

Lifting the Veil: International female group exhibition

3 June - 14 July 2016

Pieter Obels: Solo exhibition

Nearest Tube:

Oxford Circus, Tottenham Court Road & Goodge Street

Opening Times:

Tuesday to Friday 11am - 7pm & Saturday 11am - 6pm