

NOW REPRESENTED BY FLOWERS GALLERY: PETER SCHMERSAL

27 February - 4 April 2015

Press Preview

Thursday 26 February 12:30 - 2pm

RSVP: Hannah@flowersgallery.com

Private View

Thursday 26 February 6 - 8pm

82 Kingsland Road
London E2 8DP

T: +44 (0)20 7920 7777

F: +44 (0)20 7920 7770

info@flowersgallery.com

www.flowersgallery.com

Flowers Gallery is pleased to present a survey of recent paintings by Peter Schmersal. The exhibition will mark his first exhibition with Flowers since joining the gallery this year, and his first in the UK since 2004.

Schmersal is known for his expressive reworking of the traditional genres of the still life, landscape, portrait and self-portrait, in which he engages in a compelling contemporary dialogue with the masterworks of western narrative painting. Appropriating and reinventing familiar themes and motifs from the Baroque to the present, Schmersal creates his compositions with a gestural language entirely his own.

Oscillating on the border between representation and abstraction, Schmersal's figurative subjects often float within atmospheric colour fields, transcending the confines of a fixed narrative, or familiar viewpoint.

This removal or realignment of historical references allows the artist to 're-organize' the borrowed figure, capturing the essence of the contemporary human form, and related objects, through his expression of colour and movement. His application of a variety of experimental painterly techniques brings visceral tension to the painted surface, from liquefied washes of pure colour to vigorous gestural brushwork.

Paintings by artists such as Rubens, Baldung Grien, Goya and Ingres have served as the catalysts for many of his recent works.

Through concentrated layering and interconnection with personal imagery, Schmersal simultaneously tests the contemporary currency of iconography from the past and reflects upon the task of painting in the present day.

He says: "*There is no way to escape the compelling potency of signs. I see little difference between the fables and tales we find in art history, and our contemporary strategies to form signs and invent symbols as comments on our current lives. I concentrate on my own observations, reflected in their translation – this is the source that generates creative initiative.*"



Dead Flowers, 2010, Oil on canvas, 200 x 140 cm, 78 3/4 x 55 1/8 in



Frau, 2013, Oil on canvas, 115 x 95 cm, 45 1/4 x 37 3/8 in



Nach Ingres, Paolo et Francesca, 2013, Oil on canvas, 115 x 95 cm, 45 1/4 x 37 3/8 in

ABOUT PETER SCHMERSAL

Born in Wuppertal, Germany, Peter Schmersal currently lives and works in Berlin. Past solo exhibitions have included Kunstmuseum Solingen, Solingen; Von der Heydt-Museum, Wuppertal; Goethe-Institut, Paris; Galerie Karsten Greve, Cologne and Paris; Angles Gallery, Los Angeles and Edward Thorp Gallery, New York. His work has also featured in exhibitions at Museum Frieder Burda, Baden-Baden; Museum Baden, Solingen; National M. K. Ciurlionis Art Museum, Kaunas and Kunstverein für die Rheinlande und Westfalen, Düsseldorf. His work is in the collections of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden; the Louis-Dreyfus Family Collection; Museum Frieder Burda and the Von der Heydt Museum, and numerous private collections. Peter Schmersal is now represented by Flowers Gallery.

NOTESTO EDITORS

Opening Hours: Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 6pm

Image Credits: *Images courtesy of Flowers Gallery, London and New York*

For further information and images please contact Hannah Hughes - Hannah@flowersgallery.com / 0207 920 7777



Mann in brandenburgischer Landschaft, 2013, Oil on canvas, 200 x 130 cm, 78 3/4 x 51 1/8 in