

LA MODERNE

14 March – 13 April 2013

Drawing a parallel with her paintings, Karina Bisch uses this form to produce a soft artwork, a *peinture-à-porter*. *LA MODERNE* lends itself as a sequel to *Painting for Living* – an earlier collection of scarves hand painted on silk and presented in Paris last November. The exhibition in London is presented on the threshold of gallery-cum-boutique, the artworks an explicit correlation to fashion.

La Moderne (2013) is a gigantic silk scarf/banner announcing the exhibition; *La Robe Trismégiste* (2013) directly embraces the Harlequin in *Crespuscule*, by the French poet, Appolinaire.

The texture of the materials used: thick, plastic, and shiny paint, harsh wood, roughness of dyed fabrics, the softness of silk – I am very attached to these physical natures. The materiality of my work is what embodies the images that I use. A curiosity and taste for fashion infused in my work come through an interest of the great modern movements – Bauhaus, Constructivism or Sonia Delaunay, but also Rei Kawakubo and Ellsworth Kelly, Henri Matisse, Oskar Schlemmer, among others.

Bisch develops her works as a response to architectural geometry. Each work begins with existing forms that have undergone manipulations and reformulations, dismantling modernist codes through introducing outside referents such as theatre, film and music. She examines the modalities of constituting forms in a given social, cultural and historical context, either past or present. In this way, 'the sign' becomes form again – imbued with a certain nostalgia crossbred with contemporary references. Her paintings and sculptural works allude to architectural structure and ornament.

A text by Julie Verhoeven and Karina Bisch accompanies the exhibition.

Karina Bisch (b. 1974; FR) attended Rijksakademie van Beeldende Kunsten, Amsterdam in 2006 and lives and works in Paris. Recent solo projects include Kiosk, a public art commission, Lyon; *Painting for Living*, 6 rue Elzevir, Paris. Recent group exhibitions include *La Demeure Joyeuse*, Francesca Pia, Zurich; *Entre ciel et terre*, Musée des Beaux Arts, Libourne; Karina Bisch, Yelena Popova, Mary Simpson, Hilary Crisp, London. Forthcoming exhibitions include Kaunas Biennial (solo), Kaunas; Biennial d'Anglet, Anglet; Nomad Foundation, Rome; Shanaynay, Paris.

Julie Verhoeven (b. 1969; UK) attended BTEC Fashion Diploma, Kent Institute of Art & Design in 1987 and lives and works in London. Recent solo exhibitions include *Galeria Melissa*, São Paulo and New York; *Meyer Kainer*, Vienna (with Will Benedict); *Peles Empire*, London and Romania (with Anthea Hamilton). Forthcoming solo exhibitions include *Stedelijk Museum Den Bosch*, The Netherlands; *The Holburne Museum*, Bath.

WORKS INDEX

Main Gallery

La Moderne, 2013
Silk paint on twill
95 x 850 cm

La Robe Trismégiste, 2013
Acrylic on fabric, coat hanger
Dimensions variable

Office

Pieter Motley (series), 2012
Acrylic on fabric, wood
35.5 x 29 cm

Pieter Motley (series), 2012
Acrylic on fabric, wood
29 x 24 cm