



Aleph Contemporary at The In & Out

THE AESTHETICS OF ENCHANTMENT IN ABSTRACT ART

Featuring

**NINA DOLAN, GORDON DALTON, REBECCA MEANLEY,
LAURENCE NOGA, HENRY WARD, MARK WRIGHT**

and introducing

Charlotte Winifred Guérard

Accompanying text by Art Historian and Author Ben Street



“You can make up your own history, but the point remains: the paintings here assert something, however quietly – that painting, whatever it’s of, is always first and foremost of the world we share.” Ben Street

The Aesthetics of Enchantment In Abstract Art marks the start of a new season of exhibitions curated by Aleph Contemporary at the In & Out, one of London’s most prestigious private members clubs in the heart of St. James’s. The exhibition brings together seven contemporary artists, all of whom work in paint and whose works are connected through the exploration of abstract art. Each artist taking abstraction in a unique direction.

Nina Dolan’s work is distinguished by a poetic sense of geometry, movement, decoration, and colour. **Gordon Dalton’s** contemporary interiors and landscape paintings reveal traces of style and form inspired by the Nabis, Fauvism and twentieth century abstraction. Widely admired, British artist **Rebecca Meanley’s** paintings exhibit a remarkable orchestration of bold colour and gesture. Multi-media artist **Laurence Noga** creates striking geometric paintings and colourful, yet architectonic collages assembled from industrial materials and found objects. **Henry Ward**

explores the structure of painting and the act of making. In works hewn from a process of layering pigment, laid out in rapid movement, Ward's paintings come together as perfectly configured pieces created by blocks and roundels of colour and patterning. **Mark Wright's** nocturnal, luminous paintings capture the beauty of sublime landscape. Using a cosmic alternation of light and dark, Wright creates mediated imagery based in part on photographs taken and collected. French artist **Charlotte Winifred Guérard's** monumental abstractions offer a lyrical response to the natural world; aqueous expanses of pigment and pattern form oceanic cartographies of colour on paper and canvas.

In an extended text written to accompany the exhibition, Ben Street observes that space-making is central to the paintings of Mark Wright, Laurence Noga and Charlotte Guérard, while Rebecca Meanley's and Nina Dolan's works focus more on the process of applying paint to surface. Henry Ward and Gordon Dalton, Street says "play at the edges of description and by doing so embody the intransigence of painting as a medium, its ability to be many things at once." In summing up the theme of this reflective exhibition on the nature of abstraction, Street says: "What all of these artists do is to position their paintings as points of contact between two kinds of experience, the maker's and the viewer's." He continues: "The paintings here are unmistakably physical and of the world of sight and touch. Their metaphysics, if it's there at all, comes through an encounter with the world as experienced bodily."

THE AESTHETICS OF ENCHANTMENT IN ABSTRACT ART

11 October 2022- 15 January 2023

Exhibition at the In & Out (Naval and Military Club). Free to attend.

Book here: <https://bit.ly/AlephInandOutTickets>

4 St James's Square, St James's, London SW1Y 4JU

View the exhibition online at alephcontemporary.com

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Notes to Editors

About the Artists

Nina Dolan b.1955

Artist and lecturer Nina Dolan holds an MA with Distinction, and BA (Hons) First Class from Bath Spa University. She also studied at the Chelsea School of Fine Art. Dolan served as the Director of the School of British Art, London, a lecture series in the 1980's at Leighton House and the Mall Galleries, and continues to teach painting and drawing in London and Wiltshire. In addition to participation in over fifty group exhibitions at galleries and museums such as the Sir John Soane Museum and the American Museum, Bath, Dolan's recent solo shows include Chelsea Waterside Artspace, 2020; Beaux Arts, London, 2006 and the Robert Hall Gallery, London, 2003. In 2021 she participated in a two-person show with Barbara Nicholls with Aleph Contemporary at 12 Piccadilly Arcade, London.

George Dalton b.1970

George Dalton was awarded an MA in Fine Art by the University of Northumbria, and a BA (Hons), Fine Art, University of Wales, Cardiff. Select residencies include URRRA, Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2016 and the Chapter Art Gallery, Cardiff, 2007.

Rebecca Meanley b.1976

Rebecca Meanley commenced her PhD at Glasgow School of Art, in the School of Fine Art, in September 2022. She previously received an MA in Fine Art from Chelsea College of Art in 2003, and a BA (Hons) in Fine Art from Nottingham Trent University in 1999, and she studied First Year: Painting at Glasgow School of Art (1995-6). Meanley lives and works in London and exhibits internationally. She is also Senior Lecturer in Visual Art Practice part-time at the University of

Bedfordshire.

Laurence Noga b.1961

Laurence Noga studied at Wimbledon School of Art in 1984 and completed his post-graduate studies at Byam Shaw, Central St Martins. He works as a lecturer at the University of the Arts London. In addition to his teaching, historical writing and career as a curator, Noga is a highly acclaimed artist who has exhibited widely - in London, Liverpool, Paris, Germany, Poland and Australia.

Henry Ward b.1971

Artist, teacher, writer and curator, Henry Ward was awarded his PhD from Middlesex University in 2013, a PGCE Secondary, Art from Goldsmiths College in 1999. He has well as a BA (Hons), Fine Art, Winchester School of Art (1993) and a Foundation Diploma, Central St Martin's College of Art and Design (1990). Ward has served as an advisor for the Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin, and he is the Director of the Freelands Foundation. In 2023 he will be Artist in Residence at The Albers Foundation in Connecticut, USA.

Charlotte Winifred Guérard b.1998

Charlotte was born in Normandy, France and lives and works in London where she is currently studying for a PGDip at Royal Academy Schools. She was awarded a First Class BA(Hons) Fine Art Painting from University of Brighton, and a Distinction in her Foundation diploma in Art and Design at Bedford College in 2016. The artist has carried out two residencies including the Newquay Renaissance Project and in 2020 was awarded two prizes: The Platform Graduate Award by CVAN South East & Phoenix Gallery, Brighton and the Freelands Painting Prize.

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