

MARINA ADAMS: *DEEP BREATHING*

Von Bartha, S-chanf

8 July – 25 September 2021



Marina Adams, Detail of *Crow Dance*, 2021. Image courtesy the artist and von Bartha

Press Release

9 June 2021

Von Bartha is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new work by American artist Marina Adams in the gallery's S-chanf space, 8 July - 25 September 2021. *Deep Breathing* is Adams' first solo exhibition at the S-chanf gallery and features three large paintings created in 2021. The works in *Deep Breathing* expand on an earlier series of works created in collaboration with the poet Norma Cole.

Deep Breathing will showcase three new acrylic paintings on linen canvas: *Mountain Love*, *Manhattan and the Moon* and *Crow Dance*. Measuring almost 2 metres in size (173cm x 147cm), the large works centre around the idea of space, color, and depth. Breathwork informs Adams' strong belief in the advertent nature of impactful painting—there is a lively animation to her paintings, similar to the fluidness of motion a yogi demonstrates; moving with an acquired ease that all begins with the initial inhale. For Adams, “great paintings have great breath,” a notion which references Picasso's statement on Matisse—that he had “big lungs” acknowledging the great sense of air, light and space in his color. The title of the show *Deep Breathing* has gained a deeper resonance in the last year, as the words “I can't breathe” gained further significance during the Black Lives Matter protests which shook the world.

The colours and forms of the works in *Deep Breathing* echo and expand upon an earlier series of works on paper by Adams created for *Actualities* (2015), a publication made in collaboration with poet Norma Cole. In the publication, which considers fragmentation, transformation, love and precarity, Adams echoes the language of Cole's poems with her own visual language of lines, colours and shapes. Here the importance of breath in Adams' work is again evident as a vehicle to illustrate poetry – a spoken artform which is shaped by breath.

Based between New York and Parma in northern Italy, Marina Adams is known for her dynamic, abstract works which explore colour, form and movement, featuring vibrantly coloured interlocking shapes and lines. Often large in scale, Adams' practice draws inspiration from a range of subjects including architecture, ceramic and textiles, from the richly patterned rugs of Morocco to the Moorish tiles found in the Alhambra Palace in Spain.

Notes to Editors

Exhibition Facts:

Title: Marina Adams: *Deep Breathing*

Exhibition dates: 8 July – 25 September 2021

Address: Somvih 46, CH-7525 S-chanf

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours:

Opening Day: July 7, 3-8 pm

8-11 July, During Nomad St. Moritz 2021, daily 3 - 6.30 pm

13 July – 28 August, Tuesday - Saturday, 3 - 6.30 pm

18 – 26 July, Temporarily Closed

31 August – 25 September, Open by appointment

Admission: Free

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: galleryvonbartha

Instagram: @vonbartha

Von Bartha follows the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health. Information on our online events and visiting our spaces will be communicated on our website and social media channels.

About Marina Adams

Marina Adams (b.1960) is a painter based in NYC, Bridgehampton, NY and Parma Italy. She earned degrees from Tyler School of Art, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA and Columbia University, New York, NY. Upcoming and current solo exhibitions include *Wild Is Its Own Way*, Stephen Friedman Gallery, London (September 2021) and *Works on Paper (2016-2021)*, Stephen Friedman Gallery (June 2021). Recent solo exhibitions include *The Journal Gallery*, New York, NY (March 2021); *FOCUS: Marina Adams*, The Modern Art Museum, Fort Worth, TX (November 2020); *Anemones at Salon 94 Bowery*, NYC, which was accompanied by her monograph (2019); and *The Secret of Greek Grammar* at Larsen Warner Gallery in Stockholm, Sweden. Current group exhibitions include *Affinities for*

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Abstraction: Artists on Eastern Long Island 1950 to 2020, Parrish Art Museum, NY; and *Shapes*, Alexander Berggruen, NYC. Adams is a 2016 recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship, and received the 2018 Award of Merit Medal for Painting from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists. As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus on Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and S-chanf, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at www.vonbartha.com/stories

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