

Malcolm Liepke

Altered States

3 – 26 November 2017

Opening reception Thursday 2 November | 6–8 pm

American artist Malcolm Liepke was born in 1953 and raised in Minneapolis. He is an experienced, mid-career painter who has exhibited all over the world; his work is represented in numerous private and public collections. Continuing a fruitful professional relationship, Pontone Gallery is proud to present his new paintings, which further investigate and articulate his sensuous images of male and female models.

He is a painter of a particular world, a 'demi-monde', inhabited by mostly young and attractive subjects, who project an air of self-absorption and watchfulness. Isolated figures pose with an almost insolent self-regard, others appear more vulnerable, as if exhausted by the rigours of a dissolute life. Particularly of note are the group compositions, where his subjects interact, evoking tender and sensual feelings, modifying the potential solipsism of their characters. Genuine emotion is on display in a world of mutual grooming and self-presentation.

Liepke paints with an assured, expressive and fluent handling of his medium. His frank enjoyment of the texture of male and female flesh is fully embodied in the rich and luscious quality of the oil. Thick, clotted and sticky passages contrast with slick, fluid glazes. Cream-like paint is laid down in planes of acidic, pastel hues of greens, blues, pinks, purples and oranges, making dramatic contrast with descriptive areas of pale skin-tones. His responsive manipulation of the brush and medium subtly reacts to the contour and surface of the subject, articulating a world of sensation.

The compositions speak of an interior, artificially-lit, urban world: a locale of bars, nightclubs, studios and house-parties. There is an accompanying sense of erotic intoxication. This is a milieu familiar to us from the paintings of Degas, Toulouse-Lautrec, Manet, Hopper, Sargent and many others. Liepke, painting his contemporary cast of provocative characters, makes a connection with the past and presents us with an archetypal portrait. The inhabitants of this 'bohemian' world are as serious and worthy of study as anyone.



Tilted Head
2017 | Oil on Canvas | 25 x 20 cm (10 x 8 in)



Kissing Couple
2017 | Oil on Canvas | 25 x 25 cm (10 x 10 in)

Pontone

GALLERY

MALCOLM LIEPKE

Born in Minneapolis, USA in 1953

EDUCATION

Art Center – Pasadena, California, 1973-1975

SELECTED SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2016 Pontone Gallery, London
- 2014 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
Nikola Rukaj Gallery, Toronto, Canada
- 2013 Albemarle Gallery, London
- 2012 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2010 Albemarle Gallery, London
"Desire" Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2009 "About Face" Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2008 "A New Direction" Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2007 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2006 Track 16 Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
- 2005 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2004 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2003 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
Buschlen Mowatt Gallery, Vancouver, BC
- 2002 Arcadia Fine Arts, New York, NY
- 2001 DNFA Gallery, Pasadena, CA
Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, New York, NY
- 2000 Mendenhall Gallery, Pasadena, CA
Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, New York, NY
Albemarle Gallery, London
- 1999 Mendenhall Gallery, Pasadena, CA
Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, New York, NY
Albemarle Gallery, London
- 1998 Eleanor Ettinger Gallery, New York, NY
Albemarle Gallery, London

SELECTED COLLECTIONS

- ABC Television
- AT&T
- Atlantic Records
- Brooklyn Museum of Art, NY
- CBS Records
- Ms. Iris Cantor, New York, NY
- Forbes Magazine
- Fortune Magazine
- H.J. Heinz Corporation
- Ms. Donna Karan, New York, NY
- Mr. Ralph Lauren, New York, NY
- Mobil Oil Corporation
- National Academy of Design
- National Museum of Sport
- Newsweek Magazine
- Smithsonian Museum of American Art
- Sports Illustrated Magazine
- Ms. Barbra Streisand, Los Angeles, CA
- Time Magazine



Biker Girl
2017 | Oil on Canvas | 132 x 102 cm (52 x 40 in)



Red Hat
2017 | Oil on Canvas | 28 x 23 cm (11 x 9 in)