

GALLERIA MAZZOLI - MODENA, BERLIN

WWW.GALLERIAMAZZOLI.COM

ROSS BLECKNER

(New York, 1949)

EN

Born in 1949 in New York (NY), lives and works in New York.

Ross Bleckner studied at New York University together with Sol Lewitt and Chuck Close, and after graduation he continued his studies at California Institute of the Arts in Valencia (CA), where he met David Salle.

He became part of the New York art community in the 1980s, as one of its outstanding figures. His first works, called *Stripes* and based on the Op Art approach, are composed of a series of vertical lines of different colors that alternate, exploiting the laws of optics. Towards the end of the 1980s he made a series of works with a more symbolic character, entitled *Memorials*, focusing on the theme of illness and death, especially in relation to the AIDS epidemic which devastated the American art community. These are canvases where everyday objects like vases and flowers stand out against a dark background like ghostly presences. Starting in 1987 he made the series *Constellations* and *Nocturnal Architectures*, a succession of starry skies with a lyrical, poetic nature, composed of pure forms of light that vibrate on the surface of the painting. In that same period, due to the illness of his father caused by a tumor, he became interested in the theme of anatomy, especially the image of DNA and cells seen through a microscope. This observation revealed a microcosm of unusual elements, simultaneously repugnant and fascinating, like tumor cells and sarcomas, which he depicted in his famous *Cell Paintings*, through circular forms of color, light and semi-transparent spheres. In the 1990s he did the *Birds* series, painting colored silhouettes of birds that seem to have been captured and imprinted on the dark canvas precisely in the act of flight, the symbol of maximum freedom. Starting in the early 2000s he shifted towards sublimated, almost abstract floral images, in the so-called *Flower Paintings*. Flowers, in fact, represent a fundamental and recurring feature in all his work. According to Bleckner, more than any other images that of flowers is able to embody the relationship between mortality and the human condition, darkness and light, abstraction and representation, while reflecting on the connection between man and nature. In his *Flower Paintings* we can glimpse the pursuit of a balance between the inner world of dreams and the outer world of facts, that which by appearance is considered indubitably real and rational. In this way Bleckner attempts to transform momentaneous being in time into an infinite artistic moment, without every denying or suppressing the transient nature of life. Bleckner is a board member of AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), a non-profit center for research and health education, of which he is one of the founders. In 2009 he was appointed as a Goodwill Ambassador by the United Nations, the first artist to hold this position. Bleckner was also honored by the Parrish Art Museum of Southampton, New York, for his outstanding contribution to humanitarian and cultural causes all over the world.

His works are included in the collections of the most important international art museums, including the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the MOCA in Los Angeles, the Jewish Museum and the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum in New York, the Tate Britain in London and Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia in Madrid.

IT

Nato nel 1949 a New York (NY), vive e lavora a New York.

Ross Bleckner frequenta la New York University assieme a Sol Lewitt e Chuck Close e dopo la laurea si specializza al California Institute of Arts di Valencia (CA), dove conosce David Salle.

A partire dagli anni '80 fa parte della comunità artistica newyorkese e ne diventa un esponente di spicco. I suoi primi lavori, denominati *Stripes* e ispirati agli esiti della Op art, sono composti da una serie di righe verticali di diversi colori che si alternano sfruttando le leggi dell'ottica. Alla fine degli anni '80 realizza una serie di opere di carattere più simbolico, intitolate *Memorials*, che trattano il tema della malattia e della morte in particolare in relazione all'epidemia di AIDS che colpì duramente la comunità artistica americana. Si tratta di tele dove oggetti quotidiani, quali vasi e fiori, si stagliano su un fondo scuro, simili a presenze fantasmatiche. Dal 1987 realizza le serie *Constellations* e *Nocturnal Architectures*, una successione di cieli stellati dalla natura più lirica e poetica, composti di pure forme di luce che vibrano sulla superficie pittorica. Nello stesso periodo, a causa della malattia del padre, affetto da tumore, si interessa al tema dell'anatomia, in particolare alla visione del DNA e delle cellule al microscopio. Tale osservazione gli rivela un microcosmo di elementi insoliti, al tempo stesso turpi e affascinanti, come le cellule tumorali e i sarcomi che raffigura nei suoi celebri *Cell paintings*, attraverso forme circolari di colore, sfere leggere e semi trasparenti. Negli anni '90 realizza la serie *Birds*, dove dipinge sagome colorate di uccelli che sembrano catturati e impressionati sulla tela scura proprio nell'atto del volo, simbolo di massima libertà. A partire dai primi anni 2000 approda ad una pittura floreale sublimata, quasi astratta, nei cosiddetti *Flower paintings*. Proprio i fiori rappresentano un elemento

fondamentale, nonché ricorrente, dell'intera produzione dell'artista. Secondo Bleckner più di ogni altra immagine, quella dei fiori riesce infatti ad incarnare la relazione tra mortalità e condizione umana, oscurità e luce, astrazione e rappresentazione, riflettendo allo stesso tempo il rapporto tra uomo e natura. Nei suoi *Flower Paintings* si intravede la ricerca di un equilibrio tra il mondo interiore dei sogni e il mondo esteriore dei fatti, ciò che all'apparenza è considerato indubbiamente reale e razionale. In questo modo Bleckner tenta di trasformare l'essere momentaneo del tempo in un infinito momento artistico, senza però mai negare o sopprimere la natura transitoria della vita. Bleckner fa parte del consiglio di amministrazione di AIDS Community Research Initiative of America (ACRIA), un centro senza scopo di lucro per la ricerca e l'educazione sanitaria che ha contribuito a fondare. Nel 2009 è stato nominato Goodwill Ambassador dalle Nazioni Unite, il primo artista a ricevere un tale riconoscimento. Bleckner è stato inoltre premiato dal Parrish Art Museum di Southampton, New York, per il suo notevole contributo a cause umanitarie e culturali in tutto il mondo.

Alcune sue opere fanno parte delle collezioni dei più importanti musei d'arte internazionali tra cui il Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) di New York, il MOCA di Los Angeles, il Jewish Museum e il Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum di New York, la Tate Britain di Londra e il Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia di Madrid.

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019

Pharmaceutria, Petzel gallery, New York, NY

2018

New Paintings, Mazzoli Gallery, Modena, Italy

Wienerroither and Kohlbacher Palais Schonborn-Batthyany, Vienna, Austria

MARUANI MERCIER, Brussels, Belgium

MARUANI MERCIER & HADIDA, Paris, France

2017

Dallas Contemporary, Dallas (TX), USA

2016

Bohm Chapel, Cologne, Germany

Leila Heller Gallery, Dubai (UAE), USA

2015

Baldwin Gallery, Aspen (CO), USA

2014

Maruani & Mercier Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Mary Boone Gallery, New York (NY), USA

2012

Jablonka Galerie, Cologne, Germany

2011

Maruani & Noirhomme Gallery, Brussels, Belgium

Scott White Fine Art, San Diego (CA), USA

2010

Mary Boone Gallery, New York (NY), USA

Meditation & Time, Mazzoli gallery, Modena, Italy

Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland

2009

Baldwin Gallery, Aspen (CO), USA

2008

Imago Galleries, Palm Springs (CA), USA

2007

Cais Gallery, Seoul, Korea.
Mary Boone Gallery, New York (NY), USA

2006

Galerie Forsblom, Helsinki, Finland

2005

Ruzicka Gallery, Salzburg, Austria

2004

Dialogue with Space, Esbjerg Art Museum, Esbjerg, Denmark

2003

Lehman Maupin Gallery, NYC (NY), USA
Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2001

Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2000

Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston (MA), USA
Galerie Ernst Beyeler, Basel, Switzerland
Maureen Paley/Interim Art, London, England

1999

Paintings, 1997-1999, Mazzoli Gallery, Modena, Italy
Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1997

Galerie Daniel Templon, Paris, France
Bawag Foundation, Vienna, Austria

1996

Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1995

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC (NY), USA
Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo, Norway
I.Y.A.M.. Centre Julio Gonzalez, Yalencia, Spain

1994

Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1993

Galerie Max Metzler, Koln, Germany
Guild Hall, East Hampton (NY), USA

1991

Kolnischer Kunstverein, Koln, Germany
Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden
Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1990

Art Gallery of Ontario, Toronto, Canada
Kunsthalle Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

1989

Milwaukee Art Museum, Milwaukee (WI), USA
Contemporary Arts Museum, Houston (TX), USA
Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh (PA), USA

1988

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco (CA), USA
Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1987

Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1986

Mario Diacono Gallery, Boston (MA), USA
Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1983

Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

1975 Cunningham Ward Gallery in New York (NY), USA

GROUP EXHIBITIONS**2019**

Selections – Black and White, Gemini G.E.L.

SummerPleasures at Meyerovich: Group Show by Charles Arnoldi, Ross Bleckner, Carlos Cruz- Diez, Deborah Kass, Alex Katz and Bernar Venet, Meyerovich Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA

The Empathy Lab, Jessica Silverman Gallery, San Francisco, CA, USA

Over the rainbow, Mirat, Madrid, Spain

Currently Published, Vivian Horan Fine Art, New York, NY, USA

Ross Bleckner, Nik Nowak, Yehudit Sasportas, Markus Schaller, Katja Strunz:

"Feldphantom" curated by Katja Strunz, Galerie Nikolaus Ruzicska Black and White Prints and Works on Paper,
Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, NY, USA

Flora, Brintz Gallery, Palm Beach, FL, USA

Works for \$2,500 & under, Alpha 137 Gallery, New York, USA

2018

The Shadow of the Sun, Ross Bleckner and Zachary Logan, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Canada

2017

Blue Black, Pulitzer Arts Foundation, St. Louis, MI, USA

Nocturne, Paul Petro Contemporary, Toronto, Canada

2016

Phantom Bodies: The Human Aura in Art, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Nashville (TN), USA

Art Aids America, The Tacoma Art Museum, Tacoma (WA), USA

2015

Ross Bleckner and Volker Eichelmann, Sargent's Daughters, NYC (NY), USA

2014

In the Beginning/End States, Sgorbati Projects, NYC (NY), USA

Repetitive Motion, SHFAP at Projector Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2013

Paint Hotel, Joe Sheftel Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2012

Conceptual Abstraction, Hunter College Time Square Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2011

Surrounding Bacon and Warhol: Selections from the Astrup Fearnley Collection, Astrup Fearnley Museum of
Modern Art, Oslo, Norway

Pop Art 1960's-2000's From Misumi Collection, Kawaguchiko Museum of Art, Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan

Magic Hand, ARTBLOGARTBLOG, NYC (NY), USA

An Instance of Vibration, Anonymous Gallery, NYC (NY)

2010

Your History is not Our History, Haunch of Venison, NYC (NY), USA

Selections, LA Art House, West Hollywood, (CA), USA

Other as Animal, Danese Gallery, New York (NY), USA

America: Here and Now, traveling exhibition

Stream of the Unknown: Selections from the Collection, Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, (NY), USA
In Dialogue, Anonymous Gallery, NYC (NY), USA.

2009

A Tribute to Ron Warren, Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2008

Genesis- The Art of Creation, Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern, Switzerland

Empires and Environments, The Rose Art Museum, Brandeis University, Waltham (MA), USA

2007

Time .01: I Love My Scene/Scene 3, Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2006

View Nine: I Love My Scene/Scene 3, Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

2005

Picturing America: Selections from the Whitney Museum of American Art, Nagasaki Prefectural Art Museum, Nagasaki, Japan.

Zoo Story, Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, New York (NY), USA

2004

Flowers, Mary Boone Gallery, NYC (NY), USA

Flowers Observed, Flowers Transformed, The Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania (PA), USA

A Celebration of the Guild Hall Academy of the Arts Lifetime Achievement Honorees in the Visual Arts, Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, New York (NY), USA

North Fork/South Fork: East End Art Now/Part II, Parrish Art Museum, Southampton, New York (NY), USA

2003

Me & More, Kunstmuseum Luzern, Lucerne, Switzerland.

2002

Art Downtown: New York Painting and Sculpture, 48 Wall Street, NYC (NY), USA

2001

Mythic Proportions: Painting in the 1980s, Museum of Contemporary Art, North Miami, Florida (FL), USA

Jasper Johns to Jeff Koons: Four Decades of Art from the Broad Collection, Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles (CA), USA

2000

In the Power of Painting, Moderna Museet, Stockholm, Sweden.

On Canvas: Contemporary Painting, Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NYC (NY), USA

In the Power of Painting, Alesco, Zurich, Switzerland.

1999

The American Century: Art and Culture 1950-2000, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (NY), USA

1997

Birth of the Cool: Amerikanische Malerei, Kunsthaus Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland.

1996

Nuevas Abstracciones, Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, Madrid, Spain.

1995

Passions Privees, Musee d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, France.

1994

Painting and Sculpture: Recent Acquisitions, The Museum of Modern Art, NYC (NY), USA

1992

Slow Art: Painting in New York Now, P.S. 1 Museum, Long Island City (NY), USA

1991

Mito y Magia en America: Los Ochenta, Museo de arte contemporaneo de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico
Metropolis, Martin-Gropius-Bau, Berlin, Germany.

Devil on the Stairs: Looking Back on the Eighties, Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia (PA), USA

1989

1989 Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (NY), USA

Prospect 89, Frankfurt Kunstverein and Schirn Kunsthalle, Frankfurt, Germany

1988

Biennial of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.

The Image of Abstraction, The Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles (CA), USA

The Binational/Die Binationale, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, (MA), USA

Art at the End of the Social, The Rooseum, Malmo, Sweden

Carnegie International, Carnegie Museum of Art, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

1987

1987 Biennial Exhibition, Whitney Museum of American Art, NYC (NY), USA

1985

Currents, Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (MA), USA

1984

The Meditative Surface, The Renaissance Society, University of Chicago, Chicago (ILL), USA

1981

New York in Black and White, The Museum of Modern Art/Penthouse, New York (NY), USA

1979

New Painting/New York, Hayward Gallery, London, England

PUBLIC COLLECTIONS

Austria

Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig (MUMOK), Vienna.

Germany

Sammlung Goetz, Munich.

Italy

Collezione Maramotti, Reggio Emilia.

Norway

Astrup Fearnley Museet for Moderne Kunst, Oslo.

Portugal

Berardo Museum, Lisbon.

South Korea

Leeum - Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul.

Spain

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid.

Centro Andaluz de Arte Contemporáneo (CAAC), Sevilla.

USA

MIT List Visual Arts Center, Cambridge, MA.

Guild Hall Museum, East Hampton, NY.

Samuel P. Harn Museum of Art, Gainesville, FL.

Eileen S. Kaminsky Family Foundation - ESKFF, Jersey City, NJ.

MOCA Grand Avenue, Los Angeles, CA.

Fisher Landau Center For Art, New York City, NY.

Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York City, NY.

The Jewish Museum of New York, New York City, NY.

Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), New York City, NY.

David Winton Bell Gallery, Providence, RI.

The Linda Pace Foundation, San Antonio, TX.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), San Francisco, CA.
Broad Contemporary Art Museum, Santa Monica, CA.
Daum Museum of Contemporary Art, Sedalia, MO.

United Kingdom

Tate Britain, London.