

ANCIENT & MODERN

PRESS RELEASE

EVA BERENDES

6 SEPTEMBER - 7 OCTOBER 2007

Ancient & Modern presents new sculpture by Eva Berendes.

Large, freestanding, semi-transparent, fabric screens take the form of oversized watercolours physically dividing and redefining the space in which they are installed. They reference both the fine and applied arts - from Sonia Delaunay's colourful experiments in painting and commercial print, to the Bauhaus weaving workshop and the exhibition designs of Lilly Reich.

For Berendes, the methodical, manual work involved in their production is as important as the conceptual process - hence the backs of the screens are left exposed, revealing their construction. The works reference the abstract compositions of early 20th century Amish quilts famed for their unsophisticated, geometric designs and subtle use of colour. However, Berendes's compositions are less spiritually contemplative, taking inspiration from the irreverent Memphis furniture produced in Milan in the 1980s. Her interest is not however focused on any specific historical era but instead on a broader understanding and interest in the language of abstraction - exploring its development throughout the 20th century and how it is perceived today, reflecting back yet continuing to evolve.

Installations of hand painted curtains, woven screens and wall hangings have all featured in Eva Berendes's work to date. Her particular interest in the materiality of objects is also apparent in her plaster reliefs, bamboo and bent rattan sculpture and mirrors. Obfuscating the boundary between form and function, the works resist pure abstraction to create something more immediate, more familiar.

Eva Berendes (b.1974) lives and works in Berlin. She has recently exhibited at The Reliance, London and Galerie Sandra Bürgel, Berlin; in 2006, at Doggerfisher Edinburgh; Galerie Jacky Strenz, Frankfurt/Main; Adeline Morlon Art Direction, Düsseldorf and Arndt & Partner, Berlin and in 2005 at the Project Arts Centre, Dublin.

ANCIENT & MODERN is directed by Bruce Haines and Rob Tufnell.

Exhibition preview: Wednesday 5 September, 6pm - 8pm.
Open Thursdays - Saturdays 12 - 6pm and by appointment.

For further information and images please contact mail@ancientandmodern.org