

Baronian Xippas

Press release

Joseph Marioni Liquid Light

Rue Isidore Verheyden 2
1050 Brussels

03.02 - 19.03.2022

Opening

Thursday 03.02.2022
6 - 9 pm

Joseph Marioni Liquid Light

Baronian Xippas is pleased to be hosting Liquid Light, a solo exhibition with new works by Joseph Marioni.

Joseph Marioni is perhaps the foremost contemporary exponent of a modern tradition that has its roots in the Abstract Expressionism of the New York School. Certainly, that's the view of legendary American art critic Michael Fried, who in 2011 declared Marioni to be "the strongest painter of whom I have knowledge at work anywhere today", while in a 1998 review in Artforum magazine he described the artist's monochromes as "paintings in the fullest and most exalted sense of the word".

A synthesis of Pollock and Louis' liquidity, the affective color of Rothko and Newman, and the sensuous materiality of Still, Marioni's paintings evidence the ongoing vitality of an art grounded in the truth-to-materials logic of Modernism and the concentrated act of looking.

Joseph Marioni first attracted attention in 1975 when he was selected by Brice Marden to have a solo exhibition at Artists Space in New York. In the 1980s, Marioni was one of the leaders of a movement known as 'Radical Painting', a period during which was capped off with a solo exhibition at the Städtisches Museum Abteiberg, Mönchengladbach in 1988. In the year 2000, Marioni's work was included in the Whitney Biennial.

For the past 40 years Marioni has practiced the fine art of painting with acrylic paint on linen canvas over wooden support. The presentation of a single-color image in his work is accomplished by layering translucent and transparent layers of liquid color over the field of linen.

Marioni defines himself as a glaze painter like Vermeer. Not Rembrandt since he often painted his subjects in full light and then used his final glazes to close down the light. Vermeer, on the other hand, built an environment of light with color – his subject was the light. Marioni continues the mandate of modernism for clarity and full disclosure of the form itself. It is the painted quality of his color that is the image of his form. In the architecture of painting, function follows light and Marioni's subject is thereby liquid light.

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Joseph Marioni (born in 1943 in Cincinnati, United States) travelled extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Australia lecturing on modern painting. Solo exhibitions including his works are *Liquid Light*, Museum Wiesbaden (2018), *Liquid Light, Twelve Paintings*, Philadelphia Museum of Art (2016), *90 Years of New: Eye to Eye – Joseph Marioni*, The Phillips Collection, Washington DC (2011), *Liquid Light, A Sanctuary of Light*, Art Unlimited Projects, Basel (2009), *Joseph Marioni*, The McNay Museum, San Antonio (2008), *IRO - Joseph Marioni*, Amarillo Museum of Art (2003). Group exhibitions including his works are *Berkeley Eye: Perspectives from the Collection*, UC Berkley Art Museum, Berkeley (2016), *Die van Aalst*, Cultuurcentrum Belgica Dendermonde (2016), *Manet, Cézanne, Van Gogh, Albers, Kelly, Marioni, Mondrian – aus aller Welt zu Gast*, Kunsthalle Mannheim (2014) and *Marioni – MacPherson*, UQ Art Museum, Queensland (2013).