

# KATE WERBLE

MICHELE ABRAMOWITZ

AGNOSIA

SEPTEMBER 14 – OCTOBER 28, 2023

Press Release

Michele Abramowitz's new solo exhibition, titled *Agnosia*, marks her first significant solo show with Kate Werble Gallery. The exhibition is composed of six large-scale paintings, all made within the last three years.

"Agnosia" is the general term for an inability to visually recognize things. As a title, it is a deliberate reference to the shapes within the paintings Abramowitz made for this exhibition. Her forms, which evolve from repeated drawing by hand and with technology, describe objects without referencing the way they actually look: mass, depth and spatial awareness exist, but without specific identification.

Abramowitz creates spaces in her paintings that undermine physical expectations through a variety of complicated surfaces and gradients, all painted in oil on canvas on top of layers of oil washes or "pours." For her, space is akin to prepositions in language. It determines the kinds of relations that places, objects, and people can have. When Abramowitz makes these unnatural spaces, she invents new prepositions, and offers the potential for new thoughts.

The painting "*R. Medusa v. S. Theseus*" is Abramowitz's largest work to date, made in three panels and measuring 80 x 162 inches. The title "*R. Medusa v. S. Theseus*" is presented in the format of a court case, pitting two naval vessels against each other, each representing different positions on deconstruction, reconstruction, and the constancy of identity. This work directly acknowledges two historical paintings: Martin Kippenberger's "Untitled" (from the series *Raft of the Medusa*), 1966; and Théodore Géricault's *The Raft of the Medusa*, 1818-19. It also refers to the "Ship of Theseus" thought experiment that questions an entity's identity with change and over time, e.g. if you replace every plank and piece of a ship with an identical plank and piece, is it still the same ship?

All of Abramowitz's works are manifestations of different painting positions, pitted against each other. For her, argument is generative. Using methods of refining, winnowing, and playing the devil's advocate, she makes paintings that at completion, she does not recognize.

*Michele Abramowitz (USA, b. 1984, Berkeley, California) received her BA from Pomona College (Claremont, CA), her BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI), and her MFA from the Milton-Avery School of the Arts at Bard College, (Annandale-on-Hudson, New York). Abramowitz has held solo exhibitions at A.I.R. Gallery (Brooklyn, NY) and Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY (2022). Her work has been exhibited at venues including the North Loop Gallery, Williamstown, MA (2022), UBS Gallery at Bard College, Red Hook, NY (2016), Falcon's Nest, Los Angeles, CA (2016) and Hart Street Studio, Brooklyn NY (2011). She currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.*

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WEDNESDAY – SATURDAY, 12 PM UNTIL 5 PM