

ALLISON BLUMENTHAL

A WIDENING ANGLE

08 of March - 19 of April

"A Widening Angle" evokes the act of enlarging one's view: the reality that painfully confronts the artist is projected onto the canvas, translated as a space of physical representation. The material of the painting bears the stigmata and imprints of the brutality of the world.

Allison Blumenthal creates her works through repeated gestures of appearances and erasures in a direct relationship with the pigment and wax. *Arracher* - the first painting made for the exhibition - is made in this way, made through friction, leaving visible the scar-like folds in the canvas.

The *Cyclops* series is inspired by the severe landscape of the island of the same name, marked by its upheavals: earth that is tinted by its burning, where the image of a form emerges from the depths of a cave. The two paintings titled *Aether* borrow their names from what is considered the fifth element of nature, an area located outside our atmosphere, while simultaneously referring to the act of breathing and burning. They inevitably evoke the history of art and its representation of violence. In Allison Blumenthal's works, are we looking at the sky, the water or the explosion of a bomb? The works revisit these natural phenomena to translate the forces at work in human history. Natural upheavals are by nature infinite and uncertain; on the canvas, the feeling of vulnerability and anxiety that follows is confronted by the opposing effort to get rid of it and ward it off.

In the paintings, the violence of the world is mute, contained: the works are almost located at its core. Avoiding a form of strategy of diversion through representation, it

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is shown in its imprint by the trace it leaves in the memory and body of the artist and, subsequently, in that of the viewer. Specifically anchored in their contemporary contexts, the works *Arracher* and *Layan* also stand out as a direct reaction to the martyrdom of the people of Gaza.

Allison Blumenthal's works can be thought of as echo chambers, where the perception of reality and access to truth pass through the experience of transformation, without distancing, but in direct contact with physicality.

Allison Blumenthal (born 1971 in New York, USA) lives and works in Paris. Her practice encompasses drawing, sculpture, photographic work, and, primarily, painting. Working in the tradition of the sublime, she uses nature and landscapes as metaphors for examining human experience - particularly narratives of contemporary violence.

Among her solo exhibitions, her work has been shown at the Galerie Javault-Eva Pritsky in Paris, the Black Box at Manoir Mouthier (France), and Julio in Paris (France). Her work has also been shown in recent group exhibitions with MORE Projects in Paris (France), Galeria Luis Adelantado in Valencia (Spain), Galerie Valentin in Paris (France), and M. David & Co. in Brooklyn (USA).

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