GALLERIA RICHTER
FINE ART

Press Release

Brandenburg Paintings
Alexander Wertheim

Opening Tuesday 23rd September from 6:30pm

23rd September – 7th November

Richter Fine Art opens the new exhibition season with the first solo exhibition in Italy by **Alexander Wertheim** (Wertheim, Germany, 1995), titled *Brandenburg Paintings*, accompanied by a critical text by Maria Vittoria Pinotti. The project will be inaugurated on Tuesday, 23 September 2025, from 6:30 pm, and will be on view until 7 November 2025. Created in the city of Brandenburg in the preceding months, the works are representative of the artist's current research, in a constant process of evolution. All the exhibited works, made with acrylic paint on canvas using a brush, are characterized by a radical and effective formal simplification of the painterly language.

Wertheim's painting is an extremely reductionist act—both in the choice to serially treat the image of the grid (an element that, throughout universal culture, has served to order and organize), and in the development through a rudimentary, highly stylized practice reminiscent of the formal simplification of cave painting. This extreme reduction is even reflected in the exhibition's title, since the only useful element for the artist to distinguish and orient his research is the place of creation of the paintings.

Although contemporary painting is often dominated—sometimes obsessed—with the necessary presence of figurative elements, Alexander Wertheim aims to reflect on the physical and visual value of the white canvas. The support is only lightly traced by vertical and horizontal marks, seemingly uncertain, forming a grid and conveying a calm yet oscillating frenzy.

Despite the artist's entire investigation focusing on absence and the sole presence of a semi-geometric element, Wertheim intends to raise several questions: What is a painting? What are the limits of painterly language? How decisive is uncertainty in the success of a work? What value does the neutral, white surface of the canvas or paper hold? These are all questions Wertheim explores, yet he leaves the viewer free and autonomous to formulate their own answers, moving away from any imposed interpretation.

Born from an apparent combination of gestural forms, the grid is, for Wertheim, both the purpose and stimulus of a serially developed inquiry. Although he concentrates on this single subject, the unpredictability of the painting technique allows him to achieve incessant diversity. The intersecting lines or bars are drawn freely and gesturally, so each work differs from the previous and the following. Moreover, the choice of colors is entirely spontaneous: it draws inspiration from

hues that linger in memory and are combined without any associative logic but through countless attempts. The saturation of each tone depends on the specific intensity of the medium—sometimes denser, sometimes looser—and on the proximity with which it is applied to the canvas. The result is a chromatic variation that generates an enthralling tension on the surface.

In the critical text, Maria Vittoria Pinotti states: «There was a time when painters agonized over the obsessive search for a subject, understood to verify reality. Today, there are those who, with coherence, clarity, and without any pretense, focus an entire practice on the simplification of a single subject. Alexander Wertheim's paintings are the result of a process that is as reflective as it is intuitive, in which the artist works with forms and tones as if they were the keys of an infinite keyboard - one that plays without following any rules, sketching a structure rather than a grid. His works can be seen as a study of a dimension that inhabits and infiltrates space, without fully closing its voids but gently guiding them, eventually forming a system of imperfect correspondences: overlapping traces, never identical repetitions, developed along the seemingly uncertain and wavering trajectory of the brush».

The exhibition *Brandenburg Paintings* by Alexander Wertheim will be inaugurated in conjunction with the opening of the solo show dedicated to Carlo Battaglia, *Oceania*, at the EDDart gallery on Via di Monte Giordano 36.

Alexander Wertheim (Wertheim, Germany, 1995) lives and works in Berlin, Germany, and London, UK. He studied at the Universität der Künste, Berlin, Germany, 2022; Hunter College, New York, USA, 2020.

Among the solo exhibitions: »*Painting in Marylebone*«, 116 Crawford St, London, UK, 2025; *April 2024*, Saenger Galería, Mexico City, Mexico, 2024; *September 2023*, Schlachter 151, Berlin, Germany, 2023; *Sunsets*, König Galerie (Chapel), Berlin, Germany, 2023; *November Paintings,* Brunnenstrasse 22, Berlin, Germany, 2022; *September Paintings*, Brunnenstraße 22, Berlin Germany, 2022. **Among the group exhibitions:** *Where Earth Meets Sky,* König Galerie, Munich, Germany, 2025; *Under Forty*, Casa Siza, Mexico City, Mexico, 2024; *Janitz, Shinagawa, Wertheim,* Galeria Tiro al Blanco, Guadalajara, Mexico, 2024; *January 2024*, Salón Acme No. 11, Mexico City, Mexico, 2024; *Malbo*, Marienstraße 10, Berlin, Germany, 2023; *January Paintings*, König Galerie (showroom presentation), Berlin, Germany, 2023; Salon der Gegenwart, Hamburg, Germany, 2022; *Meisterschüler*, Universität der Künste Berlin, Berlin, Germany, 2022; *Is this Water?*, Spoiler, Berlin, Germany, 2020; *I am Ellen*, After the Butcher, Berlin, Germany, 2019; *UEC*, Ku'damm Karree, Berlin, Germany, 2018.

Vademecum:
Title: *Brandenburg Paintings*
Artist: Alexander Wertheim
Galleria Richter Fine Art, vicolo del Curato, 3 - Rome
Exhibition duration: 23rd September – 7th November
Opening hours: From Monday to Saturday, from 3pm to 7pm, or by appointment.

INFO AND CONTACTS
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