

John Finneran: *Night Fence*

Exhibition from September 6 until October 25, 2008

Opening 1st floor: Friday, September 5, 2008, 6 to 8 pm

Upstairs berlin is pleased to present John Finneran's first solo exhibition in Germany. In his work the American artist (born 1979 in New York) echoes his interest in the consistent objectification of his paintings. Restructuring their shape and therefore obliterating the traditionally formed frame, Finneran defies the artistic limitations of a painter committed to the legitimacy of his medium.

In-between painting and wall object John Finneran's "Shaped Canvases" leave the ordinary square format behind. He cuts thin strips and plates of aluminium so that the outer form seems to correspond to the inner composition, using rivets or staples to hold them together and create large-sized works. Giving them space and context, Finneran deliberately shows the traces and marks of this process which is evocative of construction techniques used to make box wagons or various types of provisional structures.



*7 Eyes (3 Green)*, 2008  
144,8 x 111,8 cm | 57 x 44 in  
Oil and enamel on aluminium



*Overpass Reflections One (3 Noses, 3 Mouths)*, 2008  
223,5 x 182,9 cm | 88 x 72 in (4 panels)  
Oil and enamel on aluminium



*3 Mouths, 3 Trash Cans*, 2008  
157,5 x 121,9 cm | 62 x 48 in  
Oil and enamel on aluminium



*Night Fence (Backgrounds)*, 2008  
213,4 x 243,8 cm | 84 x 96 (2 panels)  
Oil and enamel on aluminium

The artist emphasises the objectification of his motifs by often using iconically shaped, multi-part aluminium plates. Initially dedicated to geometric abstraction and influenced by (post) minimalist traditions, Finneran's new sunrises and sunsets, eyes, socks, mouths, trash cans, clouds and smokestacks are as characteristic of his work as the grey and black, smoky blurring.

In creating his paintings as objects and forcing the illusionistic room out of the frame, John Finneran makes clear to which point they have become a reality to him. The rectangular exterior - considered by Finneran to be a conceptual zero point for space within the painting - is eliminated so that the interior of the painting can receive the viewer's full attention.

Upstairs berlin is open from Tuesday until Saturday from 11 am to 6 pm.

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