

Brent Wadden

sympathetic resonance

6 Burlington Gardens, London W1S 3ET
22 November 2018 – 10 January 2019

Opening Reception:
Wednesday 21 November, 6–8 PM

London—Pace Gallery is delighted to present *sympathetic resonance*, an exhibition of new work by Canadian artist Brent Wadden at 6 Burlington Gardens. The exhibition will be on view from 22 November 2018 to 10 January 2019.



Working on backstrap and floor looms, Wadden creates his large-scale work by weaving linear and abstract forms that he then stretches over raw canvas. Influenced by folk and Bauhaus textiles, the language and techniques of women quilters of Gee's Bend, Alabama, as well as painting movements such as Minimalism, Wadden's pieces balance full and empty spaces, throwing the distinction between high and low into flux and using technical mistakes to progress. His paintings complicate hierarchies of media and disciplines, surfaces and textures with his own woven arrangements.

"Brent Wadden is resolutely an abstract painter. But then everything we view by him contradicts this first impression or in some way complicates our understanding of what it is we're looking at. We apprehend the made qualities of the work itself; we recognize its materiality; we delight in its appearance. And yet Wadden investigates the potentials of these material and sensorial facts imbuing them with a contemporary relevance that stretches far beyond well-worn and overly familiar discussions." Nigel Prince, Executive Director of the Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver.

The new compositions reveal an intricate symmetry of arrangements, rare textures and interplay between materials such as acrylic, left-over cotton and wool. They are the result of a continued technical and compositional experimentation with weaving stripes and the inherent idea of infinity that they address. Focusing on a consistent colour scheme which goes through the entire body of work, Wadden's concern with weave reveals the depth of Abstract Expressionism's influence on his practice, recognizing canvas not only as a support surface but one that has tactile qualities and complex intelligence.

The title of the exhibition refers to external harmonic audio vibrations that can create other sounds and hereby have secondary meanings. By extension, the term can also deal with human energy, a double meaning which was of specific interest to Wadden for these new works.

Wadden's turn toward labour-intensive methods and techniques situates him within a group of artists who have resisted technology in favour of more physical, craft-based media. He sees his paintings as accumulating the residual energy of his materials, his labour and the different categorical translations that happen as he transforms raw craft material into a painting. Rather than reject the distinctions between textile and painting, craft and fine art, he embraces each, weaving them into his own aesthetic that resists fixed boundaries between media.

This is the third presentation of works by Brent Wadden at Pace in London.

Brent Wadden (b. 1979, Glace Bay, Nova Scotia) graduated from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 2003 and lives in Berlin and Vancouver. Solo exhibitions of his work have been presented at Peres Projects, Berlin (2013); *Sorry We're Closed*, Brussels (2013); Peres Projects, Berlin (2014); Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels (2014); Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2015); Pace Gallery, London (2015); Peres Projects, Berlin (2017); Almine Rech Gallery, Paris (2016); Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2017); PKM Gallery, Seoul (2017); and Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2018).

Wadden first exhibited at Pace in *Mingei: Are You Here?*, presented in London (2013) and New York (2014). Selected recent group exhibitions include *Abstract America Today*, Saatchi Gallery, London (2014); *Be Mysterious*, Walter Phillips Gallery at the Banff Centre (2014); *Frauen, die Ausstellung*, Autocenter, Berlin (2014); *With Small Words*, Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna (2014); and *Geometry of Knowing*, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver (2015); *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures*, Vancouver Art Gallery (2016); *My Abstract World*, me Collectors Room, Berlin (2016); *The Blur in Between*, Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton (2016); *Making & Unmaking*, an exhibition curated by Duro Olowu, Camden Arts Centre, London (2016); *Stitch*, curated by Ian Ruffino, Beeler Gallery at Columbus College of Art & Design, Ohio (2017); *Art of the New Millennium in Taguchi Art Collection*, The Museum of Modern Art, Gunma, Japan (2017); *High Anxiety: New Acquisitions*, Rubell Family Collection, Miami (2017); *Song for my Hands*, Bienal de Curitiba, curated by Marta Mestre, Museu Oscar Niemeyer, Curitiba, Brazil (2017); and *Two Scores*, curated by Kimberly Phillips, Contemporary Art Gallery, Vancouver (2018).

Pace is a leading contemporary art gallery representing many of the most significant international artists and estates of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Under the leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace is a vital force within the art world and plays a critical role in shaping the history, creation, and engagement with modern and contemporary art. Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy for vibrant and dedicated relationships with renowned artists. As the gallery approaches the start of its seventh decade, Pace's mission continues to be inspired by our drive to support the world's most influential and innovative artists and to share their visionary work with people around the world.

Pace advances this mission through its dynamic global programme, comprising ambitious exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, and curatorial research and writing. Today, Pace has ten locations worldwide: three galleries in New York; one in London; one in Geneva; one in Palo Alto, California; one

in Beijing; two in Hong Kong; and one in Seoul. Pace will open a new flagship gallery in New York, anticipated for completion in autumn 2019. In 2016, Pace joined with Futurecity to launch Future\ Pace—an international cultural partnership innovating multidisciplinary projects for art in the public realm.

Image: © Brent Wadden, Courtesy Pace Gallery.

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