

CHECK! 🎯

Robert Janitz at Casa Gilardi

An Intervention curated by Gianni Jetzer
 Presented by Archivo Colectivo Gallery, Mexico City

Casa Gilardi, Mexico City 4/27/2021 - 5/8/2021
 During Zona Maco Artweek

Who is Robert Janitz:

Janitz is a German born cosmopolite who has lived in Paris, New York and most recently Mexico City. He has been the subject of exhibitions internationally, Los Angeles, New York City, Paris, London, Berlin, Seoul. His work has been reviewed in The New Yorker, the New York Times and Artforum. He makes paintings that uncover processes, exploring the interplay between movement, gesture, and rhythm in the picture. Having prepared his canvases with an undercoat of paint showing a color gradient, he then dabs on a blend of oil, wax, and flour in a technique that repurposes the basic hand movements involved in acts such as buttering a slice of bread or laying on a coat of tile mortar: gestures from everyday life and skilled manual labor. The wide geometrically patterned brushstrokes in Janitz's compositions also evince symmetrical structures and linear features that are reminiscent of the Latin alphabet or Devanagari, a script used to write Sanskrit that the artist studied. In addition to its uniformly aesthetic and contemplative effect, Janitz's impasto brushwork reflects a novel and distinctive engagement with abstraction in painting in the tradition of masters like Markus Lüpertz and Günter Förg. With generous spontaneity and painterly accuracy, the artist synthesizes color and form without veering into the narrative register.

Who is Gianni Jetzer:

Gianni Jetzer is a prolific curator specializing in contemporary art. He has more than two decades of experience as director and curator of museum exhibitions in Europe, Asia, and North America. After having gained a reputation curating exhibitions at the Migros Museum in Zurich, he became Kunsthalle St. Gallen's youngest Director in 2001. During his five-year tenure, he raised the international profile of this already well-respected institution with cutting-edge shows. In 2006, he left his native Switzerland to become Director of Swiss Institute in New York, where he spurred significant growth in both outreach and reputation, eventually leading to the relaunch of the popular non-profit institution in a storefront space in the heart of SoHo. While Jetzer was at the helm of the organization, renowned art critic Jerry Saltz wrote: "the Swiss Institute proves that it is one of the best spaces in town." Since 2013, Gianni Jetzer has worked as an independent curator and, from 2014 on, as Curator-at-Large at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden in Washington, DC. Thus far, he has curated three thematic exhibitions there ranging from the substitution of the human body in digital art to the impact of commodity culture in the New York art scene of the 1980s. For the project Jetzer obtained access to the Barragan archives that are kept in Basel, Switzerland.

What is Casa Gilardi:

The Gilardi house is a single-family home built for the Gilardi family, built and designed in 1976 by the Mexican architect Luis Barragán in the San Miguel Chapultepec neighborhood of Mexico City. It is considered one of the main works of Barragán, thus forming part of his architectural testament. Its main characteristic lies not only in its architecture but in the colors, textures, sequences and arrangements of spaces, the way of introducing light in the different rooms of the house, of sifting it, always generating sensations and that together with certain colors compositionally placed to give bright spaces. Luis Barragan received the Pritzker prize in 1980.

Who is Bernardo Saenger:

He runs the up and coming gallery Archivo Colectivo in Mexico City. He holds a Contemporary Art Masters degree. Bernardo Saenger facilitates this amazing project.

Why Janitz at Gilardi:

Robert Janitz has a long-standing interest in the dialogue between architecture and painting. 3 years ago, on his first trip to Mexico City he discovered Luis Barragan and first visited Casa Gilardi. Now living in Mexico City it became the obvious project to realize! The perfect setting for a confrontation of color and space. Barragán dematerializes architecture into light and space, Janitz materializes architectural shapes in painting. He conceived it as a chess game: Check ! to various architectural situations around the edifice. Besides paintings Janitz started to experiment with Ceramic glazes at renowned Ceramica Suro in Guadalajara, the birthplace of Luis Barragan and locus of his first building designs.

2019
CHANGE IN PARADISE
König Galerie, London,
United Kingdom



2018
COLLEGE ROBERT MANITZ
CANADA gallery, New York City,
USA







