

PRESS RELEASE

Sean Scully

Land Sea

9 MAY – 22 NOVEMBER 2015

PALAZZO FALIER, VENICE

(PRESS PREVIEW 6TH MAY)

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la Biennale di Venezia

56. Esposizione
Internazionale
d'Arte

Eventi Collaterali

Land Sea, a major exhibition dedicated to Irish artist Sean Scully, will open in Venice this May to coincide with the 56th International Art Exhibition - la Biennale di Venezia (9 May – 22 November 2015). Located in the imposing Palazzo Falier on the Grand Canal, *Land Sea* will feature a broad selection of new works, many monumental in scale and conceived specifically for this exhibition, offering compelling insight into Sean Scully's recent practice and reaffirming his position as one of the leading figures of abstract painting. The exhibition is being curated by Danilo Eccher, and has been commissioned by Fondazione Volume! in Rome.

Among the works included are a number of significant pieces from the series *Doric*, powerful compositions on aluminium in which the exploration of architectural motifs vies with the intensity of the colour. Alongside these hang selected works from the *Landline* series. Composed of wide horizontal stripes of blue, grey and green that appear to lean into each other, the sense of movement is rendered almost palpable by the fissures of colour that seem to hold the viewer in an uncertain space.

Speaking about the exhibition, Sean Scully remarked: "In making these paintings I was preoccupied with my memories of Venice, the movement of the water, how it heaves against the brick and stone of the city. From my studio south of Munich I often get in the car and drive a few hours down to Venice. It was the impressions from these trips that I brought back into the studio; I was painting the memories of Venice into the works."

The exhibition pays tribute to a style of painting where colour is the undisputed protagonist, heightened by the light and brilliance of Venice. The works hark back to a long tradition of Venetian painting, from Tintoretto's luminism to Bellini's tonalism and Titian's chromatic materiality, whilst insisting on the rigour of contemporary conceptualism.

As Danilo Eccher says: "The paintings in this exhibition emanate a sense of history yet remain resolutely contemporary. They balance severe geometry with the romantic sincerity of landscape painting."

Sean Scully, who first revolutionised abstract painting in the 1980s, is undoubtedly one of the leading artists of his generation. Working outside trends and fashion, his canvases remain instantly recognizable and idiosyncratic, capturing something of the human condition, the intellectual, the spiritual and the emotional.

His solo show in Venice will follow closely after major exhibition openings at the Kunsthalle Rostock in February, the Chinese Academy of Fine Art (CAFA) in Beijing in March and the Sao Paulo Pinakotek in April. In June this year, the artist will also transform a 10th Century Benedictine monastery in Montserrat, Spain. Coinciding with the opening in Montserrat and the artist's 70th birthday, Hatje Cantz will publish a major book celebrating Scully's oeuvre.

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Notes to Editors

Volume! Foundation was established in 1997 in a former glass factory in Trastevere. Founded by Francesco Nucci with the support of artists, curators and creatives, the space quickly evolved into a workshop of ideas. The gallery is a living and versatile space, which artists can appropriate and reinvent each time through their work. Each time an artist intervenes in the space they create something completely unique, providing an entirely new experience for the visitor. The artists are free to destroy the existing architecture of the space in order to create something fresh. The space is never restored to its original format, yet manages to preserve the memory of its past through the layers on the walls. Volume! seeks to emulate the city of Rome where every building has multiple historical layers and where ancient monuments act as the foundation for new constructions. Over the years the foundation has collaborated with many notable artists from around the world and has played an important part in the development of their artistic career. Artists from 1997 to 2015 include:

Alfredo Pirri, Jannis Kounellis, Bernard Rudiger, Nunzio e Raimund Kummel, Gianni Dessì, Sol Lewitt, Maurizio Savini, Gilberto Zorio, Bizhan Bassiri, Langlands & Bell, Esposito/Sarra/Van Buren, Pizzi Cannella, Paolo Canevari, Renzogallo/Nagasawa, Pedro Cabrita Reis, Marco Tirelli, Claudio Abate, Mimmo Paladino, Giuseppe Gallo, Annie Ratti, Francois Morellet, Jorge Peris, Olaf Nicolai, Marco Gastini, Carlos Garaicoa, Alessandro Bulgini, Morellet/Nannucci, Marina Paris, Roberto Pietrosanti, Giuseppe Maraniello, Arcangelo, Marina Abramovic and her students, Peter Campus, Jaume Plensa, Felice Levini, Myriam Laplante, Italo Zuffi, Balka/Pirri, Costa Vece, Kirchoff/Lim/Pancrazzi, Daniela Perego/Giammetta& Giammetta, Laudani/Guarascio/Arcucci, Fabio Mauri, Vettor Pisani, Flavio Favelli, Dennis Oppenheim, Carlo De Meo, Luis Gonzalez Palma e Graciela De Oliveira, Rui Chafes, Bruno Ceccobelli, Jimmie Durham, Regina José Galindo, Graciela Sacco, Carsten Nicolai, Carla Accardi, Ernesto Neto, Franco Purini, Johan Lorbeer, Claudie Gagnon, Enzo Cucchi, Mainer Lopez, Valery Koshlyakov, Gregorio Botta, Rodolfo Fiorenza, Nahum Tevet, Michele Zaza, Gregor Schneider, Elvio Chiricozzi, Paul Morrison, Christian Boltanski, Ivan Navarro, Sissi, Michele De Lucchi, Gianfranco Baruchello.



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