

**Billy Childish**

*flowers, nudes and birch trees: New Paintings 2015*

September 10-October 31, 2015

536 West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York

#billychildish

**Opening Reception: Thursday, September 10, 6-8PM**



*birch wood*, 2015, oil and charcoal on linen, 72.05 x 108.07 inches, 183 x 274.5 cm. Courtesy the artist and Lehmann Maupin, New York and Hong Kong.

New York, August 11, 2015—Lehmann Maupin is pleased to present its fourth exhibition with British artist **Billy Childish**, a prolific painter, writer, and musician. The artist's vivid oil paintings offer fragmented fields of intense color applied frenetically, often leaving charcoal marks and the linen canvas exposed, further emphasizing the immediate and intuitive nature of Childish's work. **The artist will be present for an opening reception at the gallery on Thursday, September 10 from 6-8PM.**

Working in traditional genres such as portraiture, still life, and landscape, Childish's paintings are spiritually charged expressions that come from a place of deep personal meaning. These powerful works, including unabashed nudes, self-portraits, and dense woodland scenes, honor the simple nature of being and in the process transcend the ordinary.

Eschewing any hint of post-modernist irony in his work, he allows the basics of personal expression to come forth through the fundamentals of painting. A self-proclaimed "Radical Traditionalist," Childish has said, "The reason I honor tradition is that it provides a form and structure that allows freedom—the ego is subjugated and

the requirements of the painting are met. Tradition is not to be worshipped or adored; it is a vehicle to take you to new places, or we could say to arrive at the perennial.”

While he is occasionally associated with British groups like the Stuckists and YBAs, Childish does not see himself as connected to a particular contemporary movement; however, he is highly regarded and well known by his peers, including renowned artists Peter Doig and Tracey Emin. Childish’s influences range from artists whose work he admires, including Vincent van Gogh, Kurt Schwitters, Edvard Munch, Mikhail Larionov, and Karl Schmidt-Rottluff. Many of these artists worked outside of specific movements or groups, or were held in high regard during their own lifetimes, but later came to be cited as influences to subsequent generations.

At White Columns on Saturday, September 12th at 7PM Childish will discuss his recent work with Director Matthew Higgs. In addition to the conversation, there will be a slide show and a pop-up shop including books, records, prints, and other recent editions.

### **About the Artist**

Billy Childish was born in Chatham, England in 1959. After leaving secondary school at age 16 he worked at the Naval Dockyard in Chatham as an apprentice stonemason. Initially denied an interview to the local art school, he produced hundreds of drawings that gained him entry to London’s St. Martin’s School of Art. Childish’s defiance to authority led to his eventual expulsion from art school in 1981. He then embarked on an artistic odyssey, exploring a broad range of worldly themes including war, history, and social protest. Over the last 35 years, Childish has gained something of a cult status worldwide. In addition to writing and publishing over 40 volumes of confessional poetry and 5 novels, Childish has recorded over 100 LPs, and painted many hundreds of paintings. Childish has had solo and group exhibitions internationally with recent solo exhibitions in New York, London, and Berlin. His work was featured in the major exhibitions *Billy Childish: Unknowable but Certain* at the ICA in London and White Columns in New York, both in 2010. The artist lives and works in Kent, United Kingdom.

### **About Lehmann Maupin**

Founded in 1996 by partners Rachel Lehmann and David Maupin, Lehmann Maupin has fostered the careers of a diverse group of internationally renowned artists, both emerging and established, working in multiple disciplines and across varied media. With three locations—two in New York and one in Hong Kong—the gallery represents artists from the United States, Europe, Asia, South America, Africa, and the Middle East. Known for championing artists who create groundbreaking and challenging forms of visual expression, Lehmann Maupin presents work highlighting personal investigations and individual narratives through conceptual approaches that often address such issues as gender, class, religion, history, politics, and globalism.

### **Current & Upcoming Exhibitions**

Matthias Weischer, September 8-October 3, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building  
Nari Ward, *Breathing Directions*, September 9-November 7, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street  
Adriana Varejão, October 10-November 21, 2015, Hong Kong, Pedder Building  
Teresita Fernández, November 5-December 19, 2015, New York, West 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Angel Otero, November 11-December 19, 2015, New York, Chrystie Street  
Shirazeh Houshiary, November 24, 2015-January 9, 2016, Hong Kong, Pedder Building

For more information on Billy Childish or other Lehmann Maupin artists, please contact Marta de Movellan at +1 212 255 2923, or visit [lehmannmaupin.com](http://lehmannmaupin.com).

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