

DANZIGER

On Madison

PETRA CORTRIGHT

October 12 – November 16



Petra Cortright
rans aircraaft (creating public amplifiers, 2019)
Unique digital painting on anodized aluminum 59 x 59"

Petra Cortright is an interdisciplinary artist known both for her role in the “Net-Art” movement – a movement that uses the Internet as its primary source – and as a “post-Internet artist” which is to say of the generation after the progenitors of Net-Art.

For her first show at Danziger Gallery, Cortright has produced a suite of new works that she describes as “domestic landscapes”. Subtly or subconsciously referencing two iconic women artists – Agnes Martin for the grids that form the foundation upon which Cortright’s layers intertwine, and Joan Mitchell for the vibrant and assertive brushstrokes that are the core elements of each work.

As she has done for over a decade Cortright’s works engage the digital world we live in in fresh and original ways. She creates each unique piece by harvesting images from the internet, loading them into Photoshop, and then manipulating, stretching, and carving them up. She invents her own icons and marks using digital paintbrushes to make her brushstrokes, combining these with the manipulated and appropriated images.

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Cortright then modifies her files endlessly, adding and subtracting colors, layers, and shapes until they reach her (or their) own decisive moment. The works in this show are among Cortright's first to engage with the grid - a visual structure that lies at the heart of much contemporary art as well as being an organizing principle for the web. In Cortright's pieces, the shapes and brushstrokes move in front of and behind the set grid following and disrupting its order.

A celebration of the continuing evolution of Cortright's painting practice. While at first glance these works may seem complex, they aim for simplicity and harmony, revealing themselves over time, and in Cortright's words being "a defense of beauty". Printed on a metal base with 6 or more passes through the printer, the various parts merge into a unique amalgam of painting, photograph, and appropriation - the flatness of each work echoing the flatness of the screen on which they are created.

As Cortright points out things move so fast that internet and digital sources are changed generationally if not sooner. Engaging with the past, present, and future these new works inspire meditations on color, form, and the act of art-making itself.

Petra Cortright was born in Santa Barbara in 1986 and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. She studied Fine Arts at the Parsons School of Design, and the California College of the Arts in San Francisco. Her pieces have been shown in museums and galleries around the world.

Selected exhibitions include "The Body Electric," Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; "Dirty Protest: Selections from the Hammer," Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; "Now Playing: Video 1999-2019," Scottsdale Museum of Contemporary Art; "Hate Speech: Aggression and Imitation," Künstlerhaus, Halle für Kunst & Medien, Austria; "Plugged-In Paintings," SITE131, Dallas, TX; Midnight Moment, Times Square Arts, NY, "Primary Directives," Marlborough Contemporary, London (all 2019); "I Was Raised On the Internet," MCA Chicago, IL (2018); Ural Industrial Biennial, Ekaterinberg, Russia; City Gallery, Wellington, New Zealand (both 2017); "Electronic Superhighway," Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (2016); "The Metabolic Age," MALBA, Buenos Aires, Argentina; "On YouTube. Kunst und Playlists aus 10 Jahren," Kunsthaus Langenthal, Switzerland; "Im Inneren der Stadt," Künstlerhaus Bremen, Germany; (all 2015); Frieze Film, London, UK; 12th Biennale de Lyon, France (both 2013); the Venice Biennale, Italy (2009). Cortright's works are in the permanent collections of The Pérez Museum, Miami; Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Moderna Museet, Stockholm; MOTI, Breda, in collaboration with Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam; MCA Chicago; Kadist Foundation, Paris, San Francisco; BAMPFA, Berkeley, CA, San Jose Museum of Art, San Jose; MOCA Los Angeles; and Rhizome's Net Art Anthology, New York.

For more information please e-mail info@danzigergallery.com.