RONCHINI

Rebecca Ward: unfolding
Preview: 11 October 2022, 6 – 8 pm
Open: 12 October – 18 November 2022

Rebecca Ward, sphinx, 2022. © The Artist and Ronchini, London

Ronchini is proud to present our fourth solo exhibition with Brooklyn based artist Rebecca Ward. *unfolding* presents all new works by the artist, whose practice is defined by blurring the lines between painting and sculpture, fine art and craft, materials and process.

The title of the show references the passage of time imbued within the fabric of the works, and the gradual reveal of information through abstraction. For Ward, these works are significant because they were created during a time of momentous transition in her personal life — her experience of becoming a parent. The word 'unfolding' suggests both a physical relationship to textiles and alludes to the temporal process of making.

Ward notes: "When I became pregnant, my changing body was hard to ignore, and it felt natural and necessary to begin drawing with curves. While I don't consider the works to be overtly autobiographical, it's impossible to leave yourself out of the process."

Ward creates paintings in a laborious process which begins by composing the works digitally and then re-working by hand with watercolor on graph paper. She then measures, cuts, and unweaves portions of the canvas, before painting and re-sewing them back together again. Finally she stretches the reassembled canvas over the frame, resulting in bold and idiosyncratic works with stunning detail. These paintings both reveal and obscure the multidimensional aspects of canvas and the physical structure of the stretcher bars.

Although appearing abstract, the works and their undulating lines contain multiple meanings and references, ranging from the now ubiquitous peaks and valleys of pandemic related graphs, to the smooth contours of a pregnant body. These cycles are reduced to their basic forms, elegant and fluid, yet also oblique and ambiguous. Multiplicities of meaning gradually unfold alongside the viewer's own experience with geometry, materiality and abstraction.

22 Dering Street, London W1S 1AN
+44 (0) 20 7629 9188
info@ronchinigallery.com | www.ronchinigallery.com

unfolding also continues the artist's experimentation with colour. She has recently started to use a saturated chromatic palette, often blended with flashe and dye to create unique combinations of colour otherwise unattainable with acrylic paints alone.

She notes: "Colour creates such polarizing responses in people; some colours have an aggressive energy and others are calming. They're all eliciting emotions. Recently, I'm mostly using combinations of red, blue, or green. I'm interested in the fact that we see in red, blue, and green, and I like eliminating yellow and orange as a creative constraint. "

Influenced by contemporary masters such as Agnes Martin and Frank Stella, these colourful works combine seductive and undulating linear forms, suggesting cycles or the potential for the line to extend beyond the frame. The perpendicular axis in each work recalls a horizon line or rupture in space, and yet it implies infinity beyond what we can see.

About the artist:
Rebecca Ward (b. 1984 Waco, Texas) earned a BA at the University of Texas. Austin, TX (2006) and an MFA at the School of the Visual Arts, New York, NY (2012).

Exhibitions include *distance to venus*, SITE Santa Fe, Santa Fe, NM (2022), *Fresh Faces from the Rachofsky Collection*, Site 131, Dallas, TX (2021); *Over & Over*, Columbia College, Chicago, IL (2018); *Rebecca Ward: silhouettes*, Ronchini, London (2018); *Rebecca Ward*, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY (2017); *Eastwing Biennial: Artificial Realities*, The Courtauld Institute of Art, London, UK (2016); *Making & Unmaking*, Camden Art Centre, London, UK (2016); *The Tim Sayer Bequest*, The Hepworth Wakefield, Wakefield, UK (2016); *Space Between*, The FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY (2015); *Linear Abstraction*, Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, GA (2015); and *Rebecca Ward: indulgences*, Exchiesetta, Polignano a Mare, Italy (2015). She is in the permanent collections of The Hepworth Wakefield Museum, Yorkshire, UK; The Museum of Old and New Art, Tasmania, Australia, and The Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas. Residencies include Storm King Art Center, New Windsor, NY (2016); and Atelier Alighiero Boetti, Todi, Italy (2013).

Ward employs banded, sewn, and deconstructed canvases to explore the line between painting and sculpture. Her work emphasizes materiality and process, as she unravels and reassembles canvas to expose underlying stretcher bars, revealing the multidimensional physical structure of the painting itself. Ward's artworks reveal and obscure, and by their nature, entice viewers to closely investigate manipulation of fabric, contrasts in line, and modulations in colour.

For all press enquiries, contact:
Flavia Laschetti | flavia@ronchinigallery.com | +44 (0)20 7629 9188

NOTES TO EDITORS
Listings information:
Exhibition: Rebecca Ward | unfolding
Location: Ronchini Gallery, 22 Dering Street, London, W1S 1AN
Preview: Thursday 11 October 2022, 6-8pm
Opening Hours: Monday-Friday: 10am–6pm
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