

LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

## Anna Betbeze: *Plush Vision*

13th February - 2nd April 2015

2 Savile Row, London, W1S 3PA

Opening reception: Thursday, 12th February 6 - 8pm



*Sapor*, 2014. Acid dyes, ash, wool. 249 x 152 cm.

Luxembourg & Dayan is delighted to present the first UK solo exhibition of Anna Betbeze (b. 1980). Opening 12th February, 2015, *Plush Vision* will feature a series of new works made especially for the Mayfair gallery. The New York-based artist has forged a reputation for works that involve experimentation and unlikely materiality. Using handmade Greek wool rugs known as 'flokati' in lieu of canvases, Betbeze submits their plush and shaggy expanses to a host of degradations, arriving at textural works that are remnants of often violent, external processes.

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Betbeze mines material signifiers of time through her explorations of the painting's surface. Through a ritualistic process that involves burning in the outdoors, she inscribes into the wool flokati the environment of their making. While they engage with the history of abstract painting, Betbeze's works – created without the use of a brush, or canvas, or stretcher – simultaneously hark back to parallel histories of tapestry-making, functional design and the psychological underpinnings of the abject or formless object.

The title *Plush Vision* refers to a tangled sensory experience, which Betbeze describes as "when seeing becomes breathing, stroking, tasting, and sound – often simultaneously." By invoking the visual, the tactile, and the auditory, these paintings offer viewers a place to commingle with their unfiltered desires.

The works in *Plush Vision* were made in the backyard of Betbeze's childhood home in Georgia. Betbeze burns, dyes, cuts, folds, sews, and saturates the wool, charting an auto-destructive path for art-making that remains outside of the artist's control. Contrasting with the pristine gallery space, the works challenge the notion that artworks appear "at home" in their exhibition surrounding. Instead, they make visible and insist upon the ethos of their creation. The paintings hold evidence of collapsed time, perhaps evoking a remnant, a ruin, a garden, or a home.



*Naples*, 2014. Acid dyes, ash, wool. 243 x 198 cm.

On view through to 2 April, 2015, *Plush Vision* will be accompanied by the artist's first catalogue with new texts by critic and scholar Jarrett Earnest and artist Geo Wyeth (HW Clobba).

#### NOTES TO EDITORS

All images courtesy of the artist, Kate Werble Gallery, New York and Luxembourg & Dayan, London. For further press information and to request images please contact Gair Burton (gair@picklespr.com)

## LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

### ANNA BETBEZE

Born 1980, Mobile, AL; raised in Columbus, GA. Lives and works in New York, NY

#### EDUCATION

- 2006 MFA Yale University School of Art, New Haven, CT  
2003 BFA University of Georgia, Lamar Dodd School of Art, Athens, GA  
2001 Yale Summer School of Art and Music, Norfolk, CT  
2000 Lamar Dodd School of Art, Cortona, IT

#### SOLO EXHIBITIONS

- 2015 The University of the Arts, Philadelphia, PA (forthcoming)  
2013 Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY  
2012 *Moons*, Lüttgenmeijer, Berlin, DE  
*Wormholes*, François Ghebaly Gallery, Los Angeles, CA  
*Anna Betbeze: New Work*, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA  
2011 *Moss Garden*, Kate Werble Gallery, New York, NY

#### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2014 *Histoires sans sorcière*, La Maison De La Vache Qui Rit, Lons-le-Saunier, FR  
*Decorum*, The Power Station, Shanghai, CN  
*Invitational Exhibit of Visual Arts*, American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York, NY  
*CONCRETE GHOST*, Gallery – Cryptoporticus - Casa Rustica, American Academy in Rome, Rome, IT  
*Beyond Earth Art: Contemporary Artists and the Environment*, Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY  
2013 *See with Fingers*, Barbara Walters Gallery, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY  
*My Crippled Friend*, Columbus College of Art & Design, Columbus, OH  
*Decorum*, Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris, Paris, FR  
*EXPO 1: New York*, MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY  
2012 *First Among Equals*, Philadelphia Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia, PA

#### AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

- 2013-2014 Recipient of the Harold M. English/Jacob H. Lazarus – Metropolitan Museum of Art Rome Prize

### LUXEMBOURG & DAYAN

Launched in 2009, Luxembourg & Dayan presents curated, museum-quality exhibitions of works by modern and contemporary artists across gallery spaces in New York and in London. Since opening Luxembourg & Dayan has held a number of critically-acclaimed exhibitions, ranging from historical surveys of artists, such as Mario Schifano, Alberto Burri and Domenico Gnoli, to thematic shows including *Shaped Canvsas, Revisited* and *Grisaille*. Recent exhibitions in London include *Pistoletto Politico*, *Jurry Zielinski: Paintings 1968-1977*, and *A Not So Still Life: Naked Portraits by Lucian Freud*.

Luxembourg & Dayan is open Tuesday to Friday 11am-5pm and Saturday 12pm-4pm and by appointment.