

"Je m'en fous 26" (170x200 cm)
Acrylic painting, pastels, and pencils on canvas, 2010



Our highly anticipated inaugural exhibition “Expressway to Your Skull” by French painter Agathe de Bailliencourt runs from November 6 through December 18. Opening reception on Friday November 5 from 9 – 11 pm.

“Expressway to Your Skull” is a quote from a Sonic Youth song, an allegory for a straight and material approach to imagery, directness and spontaneity.

The eleven large paintings mark the latest evolution in de Bailliencourt’s series “Je m’en fous”. Although this part of the series is firstly an exploration of space, the viewer has unquestionably entered the psyche of the artist. At first glance, the paintings allude to architectural structures – sketched spaces within the frame of the canvas. Her gestural strokes attempt to define this unknown space, yet in doing so contributes to the deconstruction of the figurative element.

De Bailliencourt’s new work transgresses the limits of both abstraction and figuration with a profoundly personal dimension, consisting of a vibrant, and often fluorescent, chromaticity. In “Je m’en fous 26”, an element like a door reinforces the relationship between exterior and interior, thus pointing out a space between objective reality and subjective potential. Though the viewer is reminded of the rich tradition of expressionist painting, de Bailliencourt draws more upon the gestural strokes of Franz Kline, the materiality of Nicolas de Staël and the emotional transparency of Sophie Calle.

Born in Paris in 1974, Agathe de Bailliencourt attended the Ecole de Beaux-Arts in Cergy Pontoise and the Ecole Boule, Paris. She currently works and lives in Berlin. She was included in the Singapore Biennale 2006. Among her permanent public installations is the French Embassy in Tokyo. Hot off the press is “Despite Territories” a 64-page full color book of her public installations and paintings, with an introduction essay written by Amelia Abdullahsani, published by Revolver Publishing, Berlin. The book is available at Lu Magnus.

Founded by Amelia Abdullahtsani and Lauren Scott Miller, **Lu Magnus** is a salon-style gallery that seeks to expand upon the functions of a traditional art gallery - an incubator for cross-collaborations between artists of different mediums and art forms: film, music, dance, fashion and food. The founders' dedication to maintaining a rigorous program encourages a different way of interacting with art, instilling the love of art and collecting through an active outreach program that engages collectors and art lovers alike.

The **Lu Magnus** concept grew out of the founders' varying backgrounds and different points of view: the art world insider and the art world outsider. Amelia Abdullahtsani has been working in the art world for nearly ten years, most recently as the Director of Stellan Holm Gallery. In addition to working closely with collectors and artists, she curated exhibitions that were reviewed by The New York Times and the Village Voice. She studied Architecture at the National University of Singapore before receiving a degree in Art History from Columbia University. Co-founder Lauren Miller was introduced to the art world while working at Luhring Augustine, 3 years before the inception of **Lu Magnus**. Prior to that, she started a fashion accessories design business that led her to live and work in New York City, Milan and Istanbul. Lauren graduated from the University of Virginia where she studied History and International Relations.

Upcoming exhibition schedule:

What The Thunder Said January 12 – February 20, 2011
Group show with Jay Battle, Sebastiaan Bremer, Richard Butler, Grupo Corpo, Natalie Frank, Fawad Khan, Nathaniel Rackowe, Jean-Pierre Roy, and Agathe de Bailliencourt

Jay Battle February 25 – March 3, 2011

Fawad Khan April 6 – May 8, 2011