

PRESS RELEASE

OLIVIER MOSSET

“THE KITCHEN PAINTINGS”

DECEMBER 1, 2014 – APRIL 7, 2015

Olivier Mosset was born in 1944 in Bern, Switzerland. He lives and works in Tucson, Arizona.

The artist has spent considerable time in Paris and New York. In the 1960s, he was a member of BMPT, a group of conceptually driven painters, along with Daniel Buren, Michel Parmentier and Niele Toroni. The group sought to democratize art through radical procedures of deskilling, implying that the art object was more important than its authorship. In the 1970s, Mosset undertook a series of monochrome paintings on regular or shaped canvases, mostly of monumental format, that more or less implicitly comment on circuits of production and exchange. For four decades, he has been researching the future of painting through geometric abstraction, exploring other formats and materials of abstract painting.

His work has since continued to be consistent with issues of neutrality, appropriation and repetition. The artist voluntarily abandons all anecdotal, significant or interpretative content, and invites the contemplation of the meditative calm of monochromes.

The present show was originally created for the artist space The Kitchen in New York in autumn 2013. It consists of three groups of four monochrome paintings in the shape of letters, all of which reference the artist Marcel Duchamp: *TUM'*, *MUTT* and *TUTU*. Mosset says about the present group of works: “There is a Frank Stella type of thing going on, and a subtle game with Duchamp in the titling.” In *TUTU* he refers to Duchamp’s drawing of a ballerina, but at the same time the work is an homage to his own interest in ballet and his friendship with a prima ballerina. However, he sees these things as “excuses to make a painting, but then you lose the subjective narrative and it becomes the onlookers.”

The gallery is open from Monday to Saturday from 2 to 7 p.m.