

LIANGWEST

Resist & Shine

Katy Kirbach together with Sophie Michael

Presented by INTRODUCING in collaboration with Alexa Kusber

The East Room, March 9th – 10th April 2010

We are proud to announce the opening of Resist and Shine, a new body of paintings by Katy Kirbach accompanied by a new photographic series by Sophie Michael at The East Room, Shoreditch. Both London based artists are currently enrolled at the Royal Academy and are recent graduates of the Slade School of Fine Art, UCL.

Sourcing inspiration from a Missoni print to Navajo Eyedazzler weavings, Katy Kirbach's new paintings occupy a realm of impressive visual complexity and intricacy, with their densely layered patterns, multitude of colours and empowered scale. Following the trajectories of artists such as Bridget Riley, Philip Taaffe, Mary Heilmann, Mark Bradford, Peter Davies, Beatriz Milhazes, Kirbach allows for cross-reference over different periods and disciplines.

While considering her formal relationships, it is important to understand that Kirbach's paintings occupy a different territory, with Bridget Riley's close proximity to textiles, which was swallowed by advertising & design in the 1960s; Kirbach's work more directly references the handmade.

Both optic and haptic, in their use of graphic patterns, Kirbach's paintings become a visually enticing myriad of colours, textures and patterns exhibiting a high level skill and realization. Resulting in works that are rich both as an aesthetic and conceptual field.

In response to Kirbach's work, artist Sophie Michael has created a new series of saturated photographs focusing her interest in objects and colour towards the practice of other artists, including Katy, who handle paint and sculpture in their studios. This layering of her practice with others' results in an intimate colourful study.

Resist & Shine implies both the aggressive and positivist tone to both artists' work and suggests an attitude or feeling in the work exhibited at The East Room.

This exhibition is in tandem with Issue Nine of INTRODUCING co-edited by Alexa Kusber and is kindly hosted by The East Room. INTRODUCING is an online contemporary art magazine / gallery working with emerging contemporary artists, Alexa Kusber is an independent curator & art consultant originally from the US currently residing in London.

The East Room in Shoreditch is the latest addition to the international group of bars and members' clubs comprising Milk & Honey (in London and New York), The Player (in Soho) and The Clubhouse (in Chamonix in the French Alps). In 2010 The East Room has begun to support emerging talent by presenting exhibitions monthly as part of their unique membership program.