

LANDON METZ: *EUPHORIA*

BARBARA STAUFFACHER SOLOMON: *GROP*

Von Bartha, Basel

6 March - 8 May 2021



(L-R) Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, *Mother of all Superclouds*, 2018; Landon Metz, *Untitled*, 2019.
Image courtesy the artists & von Bartha

Press Release, 17 February 2021

Von Bartha is pleased to present two solo exhibitions by Landon Metz and Barbara Stauffacher Solomon in the gallery's Basel space, 6 March - 8 May 2021. *EUPHORIA* will feature a series of 12 new paintings by New York-based artist Landon Metz in the gallery's hall space. Running concurrently with Metz's exhibition, *GROP* will showcase drawings and paintings by nonagenarian artist and graphic designer Barbara Stauffacher Solomon, from the early 1980s to the present day in the front space of the gallery.

New York-based artist Landon Metz (b.1985, Phoenix, USA) is known for his subtle, evocative paintings composed of sparse, richly-hued biomorphic shapes on raw canvas. By spreading thin washes of dye on raw canvas, the artist achieves varying degrees of coloristic saturations. *EUPHORIA* will feature 12 new diptych paintings (40" x 64" each) created over the last year, which will be presented in a continuous line throughout the hall space of the gallery. *EUPHORIA* will continue Metz's ongoing investigation into the interrelated nature of our existence via the metaphor of elemental painting. By means of repetition and system, the aesthetic vehicle of these new works, specifically shape and colour, intentionally directs towards the experience itself rather than a singular static object.

Metz's practice revolves around the activity of painting, yet also incorporates the vocabulary of sculpture, installation as well as performance. In his practice, the artist continually

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investigates the infinite potential of colour, line and shape. His motifs are organic, softly shaped and constantly curving, giving the impression of dynamic and rhythmic movement.

Stefan von Bartha, Director, commented: *“Every time that Landon Metz curates an exhibition for the gallery, he expands on the way in which we look at his art, his practice, and the space where his works are placed.”*

Barbara Stauffacher Solomon (b.1928, San Francisco, USA) is a seminal artist, graphic designer and landscape architect whose career spans eight decades. Curated by Matylda Krzykowski, *GROP* will showcase over 40 drawings and paintings by the artist from the 1980s to 2021, and demonstrate the progression of her practice over this period. The title of the exhibition *GROP* is an acronym for *Green Rectangle of Paradise* (c.1980s), both a key work in the show and a reoccurring motif in the artist's work. *Green Rectangle of Paradise* explores Solomon's preoccupation with utopia and making the invisible visible, a theme which continues throughout the exhibition. In 1956, Solomon moved from San Francisco to Basel in search of her own utopia, with the ambition of earning a living as a graphic designer. In Basel, she attended the Kunstgewerbeschule studying under the famous graphic designer Armin Hofmann, whose design principles continue to influence her practice today. Von Bartha founders, Margareta and Miklos von Bartha, also studied under Hofmann.

Choosing to always work within a grid, Solomon works predominantly in 8.5”x 11” US Letter format (A4), favouring its accessibility, value for money and tempo to produce. Her drawings and paintings are often humorous and playful, using word play and visual puns, intending to be provocative and visionary. *GROP* will include works on paper from the recent series *Alas, Her Pink Ass Asked for Cash* which will be on view for the first time, as well as a specially commissioned new Ping Pong table design *Alas, Her Pink Ass Asked for Grass*, 2021. The artist will also design a new supergraphics painting of the letters *GROP*. Solomon is best known as a pioneer of the large-scale architectural 'supergraphics' movement, in particular her work at Sea Ranch, a private estate with a utopian vision in Sonoma County, California.

Stefan von Bartha, Director, commented: *“There are many ways to discover an artist, but discovering Barbara Stauffacher Solomon was one of my all-time highlights! Her work, her spirit, and her connection to Basel and Armin Hofmann are beyond unique.”*

Landon Metz: *EUPHORIA* and Barbara Stauffacher Solomon: *GROP* will also be available to view through von Bartha's online viewing room via www.vonbartha.com

Notes to Editors

Exhibition Facts:

Title: Landon Metz: *EUPHORIA* and Barbara Stauffacher Solomon: *GROP*

Exhibition dates: 6 March - 8 May 2021

Address: Kannenfeldplatz 6, CH-4056 Basel

Telephone: + 41 61 322 1000

Opening Hours: Tuesday to Friday 2-6 pm, Saturday 11 am – 4 pm or by appointment

Admission: Free

Twitter: @vonbartha

Facebook: galleryvonbartha

Instagram: @vonbartha

Von Bartha follows the recommendations of the Federal Office of Public Health. Information on our online events and visiting our spaces will be communicated on our website and social media channels.

About von Bartha

Initially co-founded in 1970 by Margareta and Miklos von Bartha who remain a contributing force in its strategic direction, the family-run gallery has been under the direction of Stefan von Bartha since 2008. Together, the two generations maintain an unparalleled level of expertise. Von Bartha is a trusted destination for its audiences and a place to gain knowledge of the artists and the specialist areas that they represent.

Von Bartha presents a cutting-edge contemporary programme, representing an international roster of artists working across a diverse range of media including Superflex, Terry Haggerty, John Wood & Paul Harrison, Anna Dickinson, Sarah Oppenheimer, and Felipe Mujica amongst others. The gallery nurtures new generations of artists, whilst supporting the continually evolving practice of their established artists. As one of the longest-running international contemporary art galleries, von Bartha continues to support the careers of influential artists such as Camille Graeser, Fritz Glarner and Olle Baertling. It facilitates discovery across the generations, and has a track record of fostering the careers of some of the leading artists of the 20th Century with a focus on Constructivism; Concrete art; and Op art.

Located in Basel, one of the world's most important centres for the display of art, and S-chanf, in the heart of the Swiss Alps, von Bartha brings together international and local art audiences across these two locations. Von Bartha creates a unique platform of events and programming including salons, openings, and exhibitions beyond the walls of the gallery, inspiring and informing audiences by making new connections and offering a fresh perspective. Von Bartha publishes books, exhibition catalogues and its own online magazine "Stories" featuring interviews, essays and insights to the gallery's work and programme. Read more at www.vonbartha.com/stories

About Landon Metz

Metz's work has appeared in solo exhibitions in Norway, Italy, Denmark and Canada. In 2014, he was the artist in residence at the ADN Collection in Bolzano, Italy. In 2018, Metz was the subject of a solo exhibition at Museo Pietro Canonica in Rome. Metz was recently featured in the group exhibitions *Blue.*, at The Nassau County Museum of Art In New York, and *Greffes*, curated by Pier Paolo Pancotto at Villa Medici in Rome. Metz was born in Phoenix, Arizona and currently lives and works in New York.

About Barbara Stauffacher Solomon

Barbara Stauffacher Solomon (b. 1928, USA) is an American artist and graphic designer. Solomon worked as a ballet dancer as well as studying painting and sculpture at the San Francisco Art Institute. In 1956, Solomon was accepted into Kunstgewerbeschule in Basel, Switzerland, where she studied under acclaimed graphic designer Armin Hofmann. She later received a Master in Architecture from the University of California at Berkeley.

Solomon returned to San Francisco in 1962 and set up an office as a graphic designer. Solomon has taught Landscape Design at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, the Yale University Department of Art & Architecture, and the University of California, Berkeley, Architecture Department. Solomon earned a Masters degree in Architecture at the University of California at Berkeley in 1981, publishing her thesis, *Green Architecture & The Agrarian Garden*. She then became enamoured with book form, recognising it as a way of connecting across philosophy, semiotics, design, and art, without boundaries. Her works have been exhibited in galleries around the world from Paris to New York, and in 2019 the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art staged a solo exhibition of Solomon's work, where her work is held in the permanent collection. The artist lives and works in San Francisco.

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