

Chris Cran

Waiting in the Waiting Room



Film Strip (Zig Zag), 2018
Acrylic on board
101.6 x 152.4 cm

Chris Cran: *Waiting in the Waiting Room*
Friday, February 2, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Loewenbraeu-Kunst, Mezzanine E1,
Limmatstrasse 270, 8005 Zurich

Mylona Gallery in cooperation with TrépanierBear Gallery from Calgary, Canada, are pleased to present the first solo exhibition in Switzerland of one of Canada's most celebrated artist, Chris Cran: *Waiting in the Waiting Room* an exhibition of new and recent work. The Artist investigates the genre of portraiture, and the myriad possibilities of re-presentation of this genre, and the interpretations it elicits amongst viewers. The exhibition is anchored by new work titled *Found Portraits*, a series of portraits on paper of abstracted faces composed as constructions of geometric shapes in positive and negative space. Installed as an elaborate grid, at first glance, each visage presents a unique expression, such as smiling with delight, or looking askew or askance, grimacing, or simply glancing at the viewer with a placid countenance, for example. The abstracted physiognomy invites a longer gaze, allowing the viewer to reinterpret the image portrayed by the artist.

As the artist has noted:

This series "Found Portraits," is a further extension of interests I have explored in earlier bodies of work such as "Heads" and "Crowds" from the early nineties, and in later paintings such as the "Candidates and Civilians" and the "Chorus Series". An ongoing interest for me is using anonymous figures derived from photographic sources to create works that challenge viewers perceptions either in scale or readability." Cran studied art at the Kootenay School of Art in Nelson, British Columbia in 1976 and graduated from the Alberta College of Art and Design in 1979, where he currently teaches art.

Cran's paintings exhibit a long-standing interest in the relationship between representation and abstraction, as well as photography and painting. His signature pop-style works call the viewer into the role of dynamic interpreter, playfully drawing the viewer in and often returning the viewer's gaze with animated expressions.

His play on perception puts him close to Roy Lichtenstein and Agnes Martin, artists, whose work had a strong influence on Chris Cran. As Cran explains: „The influence of Roy Lichtenstein was perhaps one that was most powerful, but not in terms of imagery but rather in terms of the punch with which it was delivered.“ In regards to Agnes Martin he adds: „Agnes Martin has been a powerful influence on how I think about painting because her work is inexplicable as to the dichotomy (to me) between how it appears and how it affects.“

Chris Cran was born in Ocean Falls, British Columbia in 1949. His work was the subject of a major show titled *Sincerely Yours*, the survey exhibition was led by the National Gallery of Canada's Curator of Contemporary Art, Josée Drouin-Brisebois, working in partnership with both Catherine Crowston, Executive Director of the Art Gallery of Alberta, and Ryan Doherty, Director of the Southern Alberta Art Gallery. Shown at both the Art Gallery of Alberta (2015) and National Gallery of Canada in Ottawa (2016), the exhibition presented numerous aspects of the artist's oeuvre over the course of several decades, and was accompanied by a 200-page catalogue. This award-winning slipcovered tome includes 100 colour plates with essays by Josée Drouin-Brisebois, Ryan Doherty, Nancy Tousley, William Wood and Bruce McCulloch.

His work was included in the 2013 Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art titled *THE NEWS FROM HERE* at the Art Gallery of Alberta. Glenbow Museum organized a series of exhibitions devoted to the visual arts communities of Calgary from 1960 through to 2010. Titled *Made in Calgary*, each decade was represented by an exhibition held at Glenbow Museum; Chris Cran's work was included in three of the five exhibitions.

His work can be found in private and public collections across Canada and the United States including the National Gallery of Canada, Glenbow Museum, the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, the Montréal Museum of Fine Arts, and the MacKenzie Art Gallery, to name a few, and numerous collections in the United States including the Elizabeth Taylor Collection, the William S. Burroughs Collection, and the Aileen Getty Collection. Cran is the recipient of numerous Canada Council and Alberta Culture grants, and many awards; of note, in 2014 he was awarded the Doug and Lois Mitchell Outstanding Calgary Artist Award.

Please contact Mylona Gallery for further information.

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