

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

Brent Wadden: *OGOPOGO*

534 West 26th Street, New York

January 26 – March 4, 2023

Opening reception: Thursday, January 26, 6–8 PM



Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to present *OGOPOGO*, an exhibition of paintings by Canadian-born artist Brent Wadden. On view from January 26 to March 4, the works on view are composed of woven fibers mounted on canvas, complicating the painterly notion of surface and reconsidering the concept of the handmade.

“Brent Wadden’s textile paintings exist in the balance between pre-meditation and chance, modernist abstraction and craft, ritual and intuition,” said Lucy Mitchell-Innes. “We are proud to present these new works in Wadden’s fourth solo exhibition with the gallery.”

Trained as a painter, Wadden began weaving in 2004 while living in Berlin and has grown increasingly skilled with the loom. Using the grid structure of weaving as a starting point,

Wadden’s geometric compositions evoke feelings of monumentality and expansion, movement and balance.

Wadden’s deliberate use of the word “painting” to describe his woven works hints at aesthetic debates surrounding the hierarchy of art forms. He emphasizes the difficulty (and, perhaps, impossibility) of maintaining explicit distinctions between high art and craft — the cultural and the industrial — in a time when the qualities that define the privileged labor of the artist are no longer clear cut. Wadden’s work disrupts gender binaries that have persisted in a medium traditionally relegated to the domestic domain.

The 8 new works featured in this exhibition demonstrate the artist’s exploration of the notion of symmetry. Many pieces on display belong to a pair — works that are nearly a mirror image of each other, but with slight variations. Wadden offers two different versions of a color study, allowing room for open contemplation and perspective.

About Brent Wadden

Brent Wadden’s woven paintings seek to entangle the traditional divisions between folk art and fine art. Composed of woven fibers, sewn and mounted on canvas, the artist’s abstract works complicate the painterly notion of surface, while reconsidering the concept of the handmade. Wadden typically uses second-hand fibers including wool, cotton, and acrylic to create his visually jagged, yet simultaneously mutable geometric constructions. Conscious of the density and tension of his materials and practice, Wadden’s focus on form seeks to physically meld the

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aesthetic gender and status roles associated with craft and abstraction. The resulting paintings reference both a structural life and planar presence, which further seek to rework notions of space and mark-making.

Brent Wadden was born in 1979 in Nova Scotia, Canada. He currently lives and works between Vancouver, Canada and Berlin, Germany. He received his BFA from Nova Scotia College of Art and Design in 2003. His work has been shown in recent international group exhibitions such as The Art Show – Art of the New Millennium in Taguchi Art Collection, The Museum of Modern Art, Gummy, Japan; Bienal de Curitiba 2017, Paranaense Art Institute, Curitiba, Brazil; Stitch, Beeler Gallery, Columbus College of Art and Design, Columbus, OH; Making & Unmaking, Camden Arts Center, London, UK; High Anxiety: New Acquisitions, Rubell Family Collection, Miami, FL; Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures, Vancouver Art Gallery, Canada. He has presented solo shows at Peres Projects, Berlin, Germany; Pace Gallery, London, UK; Almine Rech Gallery, Brussels, Belgium and Paris, France, and has upcoming exhibitions at the Contemporary Art Gallery of Vancouver, Canada and at PKM, Seoul, South Korea.

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded in 1996 by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day. Lucy Mitchell-Innes has served as a member of the selection committees of Art Basel and Art Basel Miami Beach, and is a former president of the Art Dealers Association of America.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Eddie Martinez, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

Image caption: Brent Wadden, *Untitled*, 2022, Hand-woven fibers, wool, cotton and acrylic on canvas in the artist's frame, 81 1/8 by 57 1/2 in. 206 by 146 cm.

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