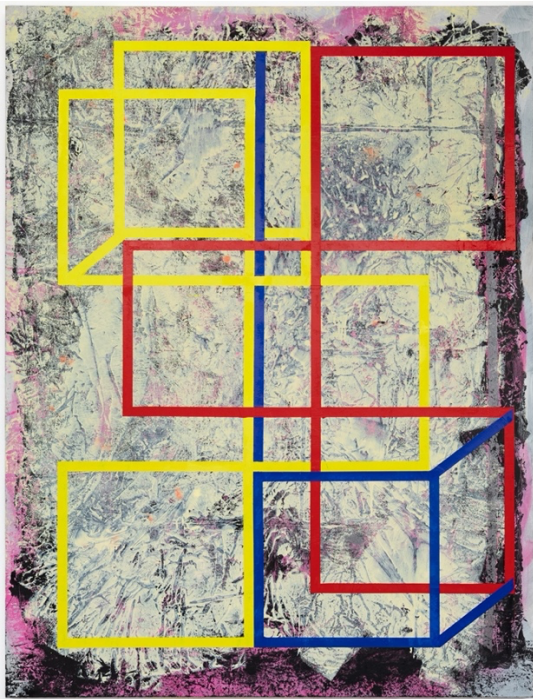


Benjamin Parsons x Hannah Payne

16 North Parade Avenue
Oxford, OX2 6LX

Press Release, 30/08/2023



Benjamin Parsons x Hannah Payne is delighted to announce *Dazzle Camouflage* a solo exhibition of new paintings by contemporary artist Anna Liber Lewis opening from 6th – 30th September 2023.

These new paintings by Liber Lewis are made through a process of building and erasing, using the language of print and drawing, working across multiple canvases simultaneously, responding and reacting to each other in a generative process.

'Dazzle camouflage' or 'dazzle painting', an idea introduced by marine artist Norman Wilkinson during the First World War, was created not to conceal but to throw the enemy off course. This form of camouflage was used to help protect ships by employing techniques that resembled those of avant-garde British painters such as Wyndham Lewis and David Bomberg, consisting of complex brightly coloured zig-zag lines and geometric shapes.

Using the power dynamic created by colour, line and shape, Anna Liber Lewis is interested in how the retina of the human eye collects imagery, as the brain completes scattered clues into coherent forms.

Liber Lewis' paintings are organised around a self-reinforcing visual system, whereby a set of formal parameters informs how the image is constructed.

When I was a little girl, I could escape from my surrounds and disappear into an image, be absorbed by a pattern of my own making. All I needed was a surface to focus on: a textured floor, grass anything with a hint of a pattern. After deep concentration an image would emerge through my own magic eye. Secrets like this opened up the imagined space that kept me safe it became the access on which I managed my whole world.

(Anna Liber Lewis, 2023)

*What's quietly radical about these images is how utterly Liber Lewis has internalised and personalised her own language of painterly abstraction. There's no strategic positioning here, and no call and response to Abstraction's origin story. And, powerful as the work is, there is clearly no macho posturing. It gives her great freedom for variety and for play; from the tongue in cheek of hiding her name in the various versions of the Anna series, to the encoded dynamic explosion between fore-and-background in *Hidden in the Zero*, or a stroll through the pleurably inconsistent architecture of *Circadian Reset*. If there are artistic forbears to these images, they might be *Taeuber-Arp*, *Sonia Delaunay*, *Annie Albers*, artists who crossed easily between painting, design and textile, and whose work was too fluid for easy categorisation.*

(Ansel Krut, 2023. Excerpt from exhibition text: 'Cryptography').

benjaminparsons.art

Notes to Editors

Images:

Top left, *Hidden in the Zero*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 170 x 150 cm. Right, *Dazzle Camouflage*, 2023, Oil on canvas, 153 x 102 cm. Courtesy of the Artist.

Anna Liber Lewis | Dazzle Camouflage

6 – 30 September 2023.

Private View: Friday 8 September 6 – 8 pm.

Talk: Anna Liber Lewis in conversation with Ansel Krut, 3pm Saturday 23 September, 2023.

Location:

Benjamin Parsons x Hannah Payne, 16 North Parade Avenue, Oxford, OX2 6LX

Gallery open times: Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm, Saturdays 10 am – 4 pm. Sunday – Monday, closed.

Enquiries:

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Anna Liber Lewis (b.1977) Lives and works in London. Liber Lewis graduated with a BA from Central Saint Martins 2001 and was the 2013 recipient of the Genesis Foundation Scholarship to study at the RCA gaining an MFA in 2015. Winner of The Moich Abrahams Prize for most

innovative work The London Group Century Open 2013. Winner of both the Griffin Arts Prize and the Young Contemporary Talent Prize supported by the Ingram Collection in 2017. Recent exhibitions include Can you hear it?: Cooke Latham Gallery, London, 2022, Life is Still Life, curated by Naomi Polonsky, The Woman's Art Collection, Cambridge, 2022, Sign Systems: Unit London, 2022, Between The Lines - New Paintings by Anna Liber Lewis and Dominic Beattie: Meakin + Parsons in partnership with Hannah Payne, Oxford. She has shown widely in the UK and Europe. Her work is held in many private collections.

About Benjamin Parsons x Hannah Payne

Presenting a programme of exhibitions including exceptional emerging contemporary, mid-career and established artists, alongside Modern British art, Benjamin Parsons x Hannah Payne gallery in Oxford opened in February 2022, expanding on Meakin + Parsons' inaugural space in West Oxfordshire established by owners Ben Parsons and Lucy Meakin in 2018. The gallery in Oxford welcomed the addition of a partner to the gallery: Hannah Payne of The Art Five to present emerging contemporary artists as part of the gallery programme of exhibitions. Lucy Meakin continues to lead their advisory service, helping private clients with building and managing their collections, and Ben Parsons' focus is on the modern and contemporary programme alongside the gallery's strong secondary market activity.