

Blouin ArtInfo: 'Matthias Bitzer's 'Sequences from a Volatile Now' at Almine Rech Gallery, London', May 10, 2018

BLOUINARTINFO

VISUAL ARTS / GALLERIES / ARTICLE

Matthias Bitzer's 'Sequences from a Volatile Now' at Almine Rech Gallery, London

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | MAY 10, 2018



Matthias Bitzer, 'time traveller (sequence from a volatile now)', 2018, acrylic and ink on canvas, paint on wood, glass and metal 203 x 500 x 50 cm 79 7/8 x 196 7/8 x 19 5/8 inches

RELATED

VENUES

Almine Rech Gallery

ARTISTS

Matthias Bitzer

[Matthias Bitzer's](#) series of new sculptural and wall works are on display at Almine Rech Gallery through May 19, 2018.

[Matthias Bitzer's](#) series of new sculptural and wall works are on display at Almine Rech Gallery. Combining drawing painting and sculpture, Bitzer is known to explore history and identity through incorporating figurative elements and abstract forms.

With the constant use of various materials, the portrayal of this is done by muted paint on canvas, monochrome paint on wood and metal sculpture. "Sequences from a Volatile Now," involves large-scale paintings presented in a dissolving manner with a strong reference to historical figures. Unlike his previous works where he illustrates particular characters such as Brecht or Pessoa, in this series, Bitzer chooses to give freedom to his choices by fixed identity, time or space. He aims to draw attention on the present by interweaving these captivating faces with shapes and lines.

Bitzer here addresses contemporary politics but at the same time doesn't restrain from any implications. With a focus to the thoughts on the purpose of being a meaningful contributor to society at different periods in time, Bitzer binds the ideas of past thinkers. He confronts with the idea of retaining sense in the real world through employing concepts from Thoreau's "Civil Disobedience," Marcus Aurelius' "Meditations" and Elias Canetti's "Mass and Power" all through his installations.

Throughout his art, Bitzer continues to attach diverse intellectual concepts or thoughts. For instance, sources such as Schrodinger's cat (a quantum physics thought experiment), Perec's rumination on writing in "Species of Spaces" and the influence of Walt Whitman and Goethe can be seen in the artist's works. The figures in this exhibition act as vessels