

**The Financial Times:** ‘What Is The Future Of Painting?’, by Melanie Gerlis, 4 May 2018

What is the future of painting?

Gallerist Almine Rech raises questions over the medium; row over museum sell-off; centenary show for Peter Lanyon; British art fair gets £1m

Melanie Gerlis

What is the state of art right now? Back in 1981 London’s Royal Academy of Arts aimed to answer this big question at its defining *A New Spirit in Painting* exhibition. This identified a move back to more traditional media after decades of dematerialising minimalist and conceptual art.

Now gallerist Almine Rech plans to revisit the show to reflect the current zeitgeist through her New York and London galleries. And she has brought in one of its curators at the time —Norman Rosenthal — to pull together work by the same artists from both around 1981 (focus of the New York show, opens May 1) and then from the 21st century (for London, during Frieze Week in October).

Rech says: “At the time, people said that painting was dead and that video or photography was the future of art.” The same refrain is regularly repeated, she adds; we are “deluged” with noise about virtual works and augmented reality but “painting is never over”.

Artists across the shows include Per Kirkeby, AR Penck, Markus Lüpertz and comeback king Julian Schnabel. Rech notes that there weren’t many women in the original show, something that is being rectified in her 2018 version with Rosenthal planning to add paintings by Maria Lassnig and Susan Rothenberg.



‘Babylon-dithyrambisch VI’ (1975) by Markus Lüpertz © Courtesy of the artist and Almine Rech Gallery