

HICKSTER PROJECTS

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'ZAPPATORE'

EC, Vincent Hawkins, Sue Kennington

Private View: 22 August 2015 - at 19:30 or by appointment



Press Release

The first exhibition *Zappatore* - 'the Hoer' – brings together the work of three abstract painters: EC, Vincent Hawkins and Sue Kennington. Three artists who have a common engagement with colour, using the subconscious, structure and pure improvisation in their work. These painters are not afraid of vulnerability intervening in an essentially organic process – producing work that is in a constant condition of becoming and flux.

The paintings themselves are quite different from each other – the physicality of thickly built up, often discarded materials in EC's work, layers that arrive at something precious that appears to be both fragmented, yet wholly intelligible - contrast with the apparent lightness of Hawkins's poetic gouaches, folded, scrubbed away layers of colour, floating away from the surface of the traditional rectangle, and the implicit geometric structures, endangered by chromatic contrast and fluid line in Kennington's paintings.

As the *Zappatore*, the painter, equally vulnerable, would not consider 'the known' to in any way reduce man's relative ignorance – despite respect for knowledge and its advancement, s/he would never imagine it could reduce the extent of the unknown. These three painters are looking for something that lies way beyond the surface – the *Zappatore* is a modern survivor. Underground.

"Play is part of the process, it's where you discover through a kind of excavation," VH

EC is a London born painter of Italian descent who currently lives and works in London. EC received her BA in 1996 from The Cass, London Guildhall University where she specialised in painting. Whilst there she was one of the recipients of a Sir Owen Rowley fine art prize, 1996. Recent exhibitions include "Autocatalytic Future Games", organised by Playpaint at No Format gallery, London in June 2015, "Contemporary British Abstraction" at SE9 Container Gallery, London 2015 and "As Wide As A Door Is Open: Material Images", curated by Sam Cornish, at Fold Gallery, London in 2014.

Vincent Hawkins b.1959 England, studied painting at Maidstone College of Art in Kent, England. He lives and works in London and has exhibited extensively in Britain and abroad including solo shows in Chicago and Paris in recent years. Recent shows include 'Forget Your Mind' at the Vidal St Phalle Gallery in Paris, and 'Flying Suit' at Dan Devening Projects, Chicago, USA. Recent group shows include 'Mind the Gap' Autonomie, Los Angeles, 'Layer Cake' at Fabio Tiboni in Bologna, Crossing Lines at &Model in Leeds and 'Off Shore Fishing' at Rokeby Gallery in London. He was prize winner in the prestigious John Moores painting prize in 2006 and again a finalist in 2012.

Sue Kennington b.1955 London, received her MFA from Goldsmiths College, London in 2002, and her BA in Fine Art specializing in painting from Chelsea in 1994. In 1996 her work featured 'Newcontemporaries' at Tate Liverpool and the Camden Arts Centre, London. Recent exhibitions include: 'Sue Kennington' at Magazzini dell'Arte Contemporanea in Sicily (2014), 'Contemporary British Abstraction' at Container Gallery (2015), London, 'Colour and Otherness' (2014) at Grace Teshima Gallery in Paris and 'Eye and Mind' (2015) at Mercus Barn in southern France - a three-hander with Sharon Hall and Caroline de Lannoy. She was recently awarded a residency at VSC in Vermont, USA. She currently lives, and works in both London and Italy.