

For Immediate Release:

CHRISTOPHER STOUT

Wonderment of Otherness

Exhibition Dates: September 1 — October 2, 2021

OPENING RECEPTION: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1 from 6:00–8:00 pm

Gallery Events:

FALL COCKTAILS at Lichtundfire/ LES Gallery Art Night (during Armory Show Week):

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 from 6:00–8:00pm

ARTIST TALK & RECEPTION: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 from 4:00–6:00 pm

Press Release

Lichtundfire is pleased to present and welcomes all to “*Wonderment of Otherness*”, an exhibition of new monochrome paintings by New York City-based artist **Christopher Stout** (pronouns: he/him/they) concerning/addressing Queer abstraction.

This exhibition marks his/their fourth solo exhibition at Lichtundfire. Stout’s work intends to surround us with the notion of radical joy and a vision of Queerness as found in our imaginations.

In the artist’s own words:

“I would suggest that Queer abstraction might be most easily defined as activist art about the Queer experience that does not employ representation of the human figure. Queer abstraction, along with Black abstraction, Feminist abstraction, and even Arte Povera are 4 distinct types of sociopolitical protest work birthed in the late 1960s and early 1970s, which primarily eschew the use of figuration.

In providing additional context, art critic and curator Eric Sutphin theorizes that contemporary artists practicing Queer abstraction, “are in close dialogue with their forbears, and bring to the milieu of Queer abstraction a new set of social, economic, and political concerns...including a series of questions: What is the relationship between Queerness and formalism? Without explicit political references, how can abstract work transmit the urgency of its content?”

Within the 8 new monochrome paintings that are presented as the “*Wonderment of Otherness*”, there is an investigation of a specific environment in which the painting references would deploy markers of both Queerness, and also the nature of sociopolitical abstraction.

The works are designated as “*quilt paintings*” as the central visual element and topography of the works are textile pieces of Belgian linen and cotton sewn together with wire in a manner akin to quilting. It should be noted that quilting here is not a reference to the AIDS quilt, but rather an extension of the tradition of quilting as a form of political art by marginalized people.

Lichtundfire: 175 Rivington Street NY NY 10002
Contact: Priska Juschka, info@lichtundfire.com, Tel. 917.675.7835
Gallery Hours: Tuesday– Saturday, 12 – 6 pm, or by appointment
www.lichtundfire.com

These quilts are stretched on stacks of wooden panels, so that the works retain elements to suggest being textile pieces, and also elements of being sculptures, and also elements of being paintings. This is a reference to the nonbinary.

Another concentration within these works is to express a linear relationship between Queer abstraction and Queer theory. Alongside each painting, I have designated a notable academic text, biography, or resource book documenting a spectrum of Queer ideas and experiences. Some of these books are longtime friends, and some of the more contemporary works were read as part of my research for these paintings.

Whilst these paintings are not designed to illustrate the work of these Queer academics, they do hope to activate a through line, manifesting the shared goals within Queer abstraction.

In evidence of this relationship, I will lean earnestly into the words of Queer Cuban American academic José Esteban Muñoz (1967 – 2013), who penned, “Queerness is not yet here. Queerness is an ideality. Put another way, we are not yet queer. We may never touch Queerness, but we can feel it as the warm illumination of a horizon imbued with potentiality. We have never been Queer, yet Queerness exists for us as an ideality that can be distilled from the past and used to imagine a future. The future is Queerness’s domain.”

About the Artist

Christopher Stout was born and raised in Maryland and is a New York City-based artist working in Queer abstraction. Stout has shown extensively with Lichtundfire, including multiple group exhibition projects and the solo exhibitions “*Come Out 2 Show Them*” in April 2017, “*Sonic Opera*” in May of 2018, and “*Standing on the Shoulders of Queer Martyrs and Saints*” in October 2019.

About the Gallery

Lichtundfire was established in 2015, with a visual program emphasizing on nonrepresentational, conceptual, and abstract art; especially minimal, color field, geometrical, straight edge, abstract expressionist painting, lyrical abstraction, and process work.

Lichtundfire’s gallery director Priska Juschka is originally from Germany, and is known for being part of the first *NADA* (New Art Dealer’s Alliance) generation from its inception in the early 2000’s.

By its exhibitions, Lichtundfire’s program is dedicated to developing and nurturing an active, engaged, progressive, and emancipated art community that addresses cultural and social realities as expressed through visual arts.

For more information and images of “*Wonderment of Otherness*”, please contact Priska Juschka at info@lichtundfire.com, or via telephone 917-675-7835, or visit www.lichtundfire.com

General Gallery Info

Address & Directions: Lichtundfire, 175 Rivington Street (between Clinton & Attorney), New York, New York 10002, and subway Stop: F/M and/or Essex J/Z

Website: lichtundfire.com; **Tel:** (917) 675-7835; **Email:** info@lichtundfire.com

Instagram: @lichtundfire and hashtag: #lichtundfire

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lichtundfire/>

General Gallery Hours: Tuesday — Saturday, 12 — 6 pm

Lichtundfire: 175 Rivington Street NY NY 10002
Contact: Priska Juschka, info@lichtundfire.com, Tel. 917.675.7835
Gallery Hours: Tuesday– Saturday, 12 – 6 pm, or by appointment
www.lichtundfire.com