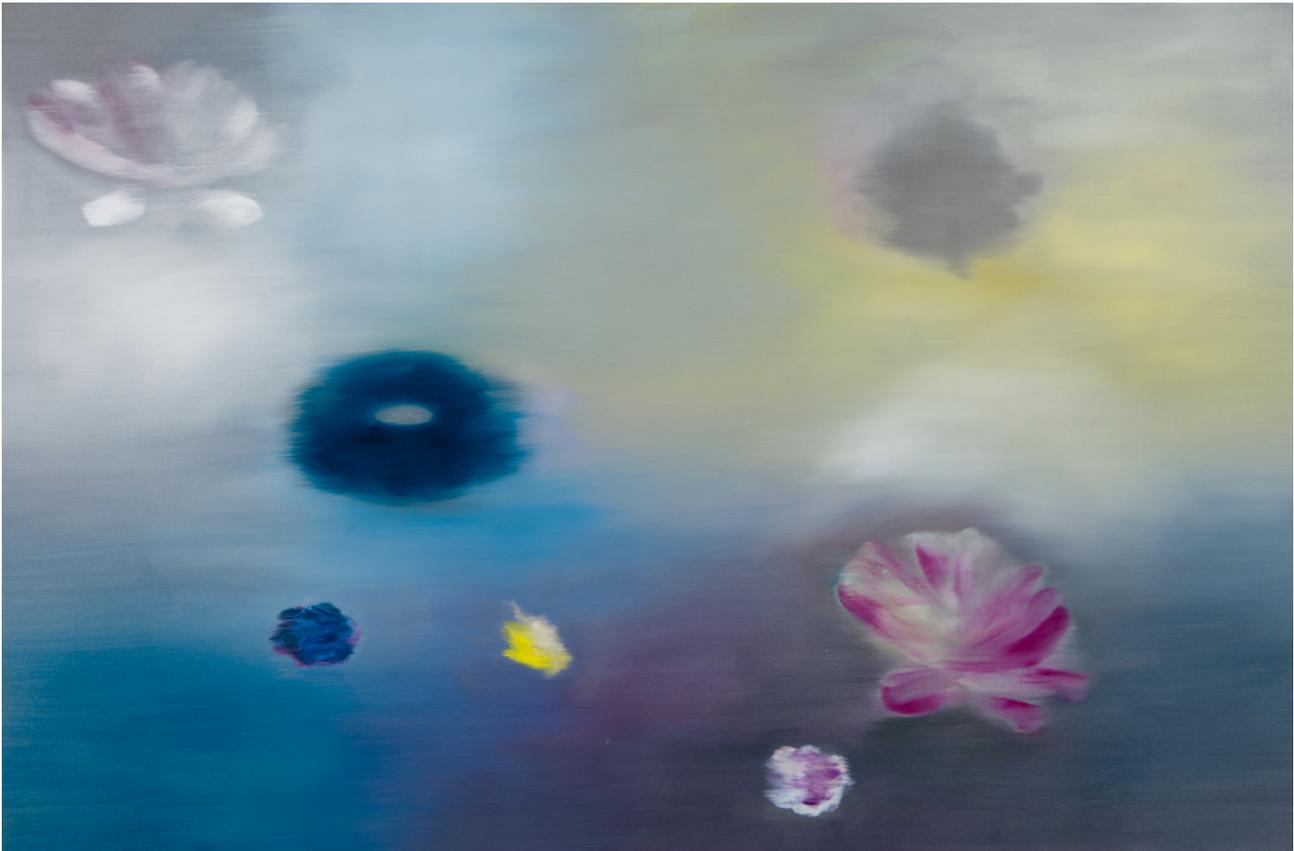


## Ross BLECKNER

### time of disquiet

23 May - 21 June 2018 in Paris & 25 May - 30 June 2018 in Brussels



Ross Bleckner, *Untitled*, 2017, oil on linen, 122 x 183 cm

Born to the generation of American artists who appeared on the international scene in the early 1980s, **Ross Bleckner** (born in New York in 1949) witnessed the explosion of the AIDS epidemic that hit the gay community and the art world the hardest. His experiences led to the creation of paintings that cross existential notions. Behind its seduction, the beauty of his compositions question loss, death and memory.

**Bleckner's** delicate flowers betray a form of anxiety that their apparent fragility makes evident. Even if the artist does not conceive his paintings as vanities, they nonetheless remind us of an art form that goes beyond the elegance of a bouquet or a still life and reveals to the viewer a work tinged with spirituality.

In the past decades **Bleckner** has become well known his support of humanitarian causes, including the fight against AIDS. He is also the first artist to have been appointed Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations, in 2009.

To celebrate the remarkable life and extraordinary work of **Bleckner**, MARUANI MERCIER is delighted to organise two exhibitions opening the same week in Brussels and Paris which are dedicated entirely to the artist.



Ross Bleckner, *Untitled*, 2017, oil on linen, 122 x 244 cm

**Ross Bleckner** was born in New York City in 1949. In 1971, he graduated from New York City University with a Bachelor of Arts. Two years later he obtained a Master of Fine Arts from California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, CA.

His immersive paintings, whether pure abstraction of stripes or dots, or more representational renderings of birds, flowers, and brains, elicit a powerful hypnotic and dizzying effect. Smoothly layered on the canvas surface against a darker gray background, **Bleckner's** famous multicolored volumetric circles or cells look like droplets of blood or molecules viewed under a microscope.

To this day, **Bleckner** is the youngest artist to receive a midcareer retrospective at the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, at the age of 45. His paintings can be found in several major museums, such as the Museum of Modern Art and in the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, as well as numerous exhibitions, including at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Martin Gropius Bau, Berlin; Reina Sofía, Madrid; L.A. County Museum, Los Angeles; Kunstmuseum Luzern, Luzern; and Zentrum Paul Klee, Ber.

**Bleckner** lives and works in New York City.

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