

# FRESH WINDOW



## *In Dialogue*

David Goerk & Liv Mette Larsen

Curated by Raina Mehler

On View December 2, 2017 – January 14, 2018

Friday – Sunday 1 – 6 pm

Or by Appointment

**Opening Reception on Friday, December 1 from 7-9 pm**

Fresh Window is pleased to present *In Dialogue*, an exhibition featuring sculptures by David Goerk and paintings by Liv Mette Larsen and curated by Raina Mehler. These artists utilize geometric shapes and primary and secondary colors to construct dynamic compositions that reconsider the relationship of color, line and form. The artists draw inspiration from everyday life, simplifying what they see and boiling it down to its essence—the shape, the color, the material, the feeling. Lines intersect and diverge in the picture plane; forms suggest themselves and these configurations become worlds of their own. The artworks blur the boundaries of the phenomenal and ontological, relating to the spiritual and the tangible world, the conscious and unconscious, reality and its illusion, what is inside the frame and outside of it. The works are meticulously crafted, but do not invoke a sense of detachment, coldness, or sterility. Instead, the artworks exude a restraint, diligence, humanity and empathy. In order to perceive the subtleties in their work, one needs to look long and deep and from multiple perspectives. The artworks are a reminder to take the time to get beneath the surface of things and see from different vantage points and, hopefully, discover a new point of view.



Goerk's intimate, hard-edged objects are careful arrangements of wood panels painted with encaustic, gesso, and oil. Often starting from a square piece of wood and using a monochromatic color scheme, he cuts out a shape from the block and then adds geometric forms to other areas. His handling of the surface creates subtle textures and nuances of color that often dupe our perception and go unnoticed. Something is always hidden from the viewing perspective; one often has to look beneath the object or on the other side to see the variation. The work reveals itself to the viewer as we interact with the artwork. The technique of concealing and divulging certain characteristics is reminiscent of the way people often unveil certain aspects of themselves over time.

Larsen creates intimate and intuitive paintings that depict the world as she perceives and interprets it. She applies egg tempura on linen to create vibrant, foregrounded shapes that become indexical signs. She often recycles certain forms in multiple works, rendering them at different proportions which give them a sense of scale or monumentality. Her works suggest urban structures, rural landscapes, and the fleeting nature of everyday moments. The city skyline, colors reflecting on a building façade, or a shape of a contorted piece of metal on the side of the road might catch her attention. She then makes a series of aesthetic choices to distill a moment or narrative into monochromatic, organic and geometric shapes, thus, transforming her subjective reality into signs. Larsen paints what we never see for ourselves, as the moment has become memory, but the artistic process of abstracting elements and isolating forms allows viewers to enter the painting and imagine our own experience of it.

Goerk (American, b. 1952) received a BFA from Philadelphia College of Art in 1975 and his MFA from Indiana University, Bloomington in 1977. He has exhibited in the United States and Europe. His work is included in many public and private collections—including the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Rutgers University, Edward Albee Collection, Arcadia University and the Panza di Biumo Collection (Italy). He currently resides in New York.

Larsen (Norwegian, b.1952) was born in Oslo, Norway and attended the Oslo SHKS School of Art and Crafts. From 1978-84 she studied at the Berlin Hochschule für Künste (UDK). In 1992 she won Berlin's Senate Cultural Affairs Department Grant and Norway's Vederlagsfondet Grant in 1994, 1996, 1997 and 2006 and received additional grants from the Norwegian Cultural Council in 2000, 2004 and 2006. Solo exhibitions include Literaturhaus, Salzburg, Austria (2006), Galerie Kai Hilgemann, Berlin, Germany (2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012), Galeria Fruela, Madrid, Spain (2008) and Helac Fine Art, New York, USA (2011). She currently lives and works in Bushwick.

Mehler (American, b. 1988) is a freelance writer and independent curator committed to showing works by contemporary artists. Mehler has written for private collectors, Sculpture Magazine and the Arts in Bushwick blog. She currently works as a Registrar for a New York Gallery in Chelsea. A member of AAM and ARCs, Mehler received a BA in Art History at UNC Charlotte in 2010 and a MA in Art History at Hunter College in 2013. She is based in Brooklyn, New York.