

WHITNEY

Press Release

Whitney Museum of American Art
945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street
New York, NY 10021
whitney.org/press

Contacts: Stephen Soba, Molly Gross
Tel. (212) 570-3633
pressoffice@whitney.org

THE WHITNEY TO PRESENT DIANNA MOLZAN'S FIRST SOLO MUSEUM SHOW AND NEW YORK DEBUT

OPENS APRIL 8, 2011



Dianna Molzan (b. 1972), *Untitled*, 2009. Oil on linen. 24 x 20 in. (60.96 x 50.8 cm). Courtesy Overduin and Kite, Los Angeles

NEW YORK, March 15, 2011 – This spring, the Whitney Museum of American Art presents *Dianna Molzan: Bologna Meissen*, the first solo museum exhibition devoted to the artist's work. This lobby gallery show, opening April 8, is curated by Whitney curatorial assistant Margot Norton.

Dianna Molzan's works engage in an open and unpredictable dialogue with the history of abstract painting. Although she works with traditional materials, such as oil on linen, she

approaches her canvases irreverently, invoking elements of fashion, the decorative arts, ceramics, and popular design. In this installation the artist's engaging and sophisticated works each reveal a highly distinctive character and play off one another in lively counterpoint.

The title *Bologna Meissen*, alludes to two of the artist's longstanding interests: the twentieth-century Italian painter Giorgio Morandi, who lived and worked in Bologna, rendering still lifes of vessels with poetic simplicity; and Meissen, the German porcelain manufacturer renowned for vivid colors, intricately embossed forms, and whimsical details. Molzan has observed that both painting and ceramics, at their essence, have an intrinsic identity that can be transformed with the intentional application of pigment and pattern.

With each work Molzan effects a transformation, as she rends, slices, unravels, sculpts, and adorns the canvas in a characteristically defining manner. While she uses a variety of material approaches that differ from one work to the next, each canvas exhibits a subtle precision in its intention and execution.

About the Artist

Dianna Molzan was born in Tacoma, Washington, in 1972; she currently lives and works in Los Angeles. After attending the Universität der Künste Berlin in 2000, she earned her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2001 and her Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Southern California in 2009. Molzan's work has been included in numerous group exhibitions, including *All of this and nothing* at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, in 2011 and *How Soon Now* at the Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami, in 2010. She had her first solo exhibition at Overduin and Kite, Los Angeles, in 2009. *Bologna Meissen* is Molzan's first exhibition in New York.

About the Whitney

The Whitney Museum of American Art is the world's leading museum of twentieth-century and contemporary art of the United States. Focusing particularly on works by living artists, the Whitney is celebrated for presenting important exhibitions and for its renowned collection, which comprises over 18,000 works by more than 2,800 artists. With a history of exhibiting the most promising and influential artists and provoking intense debate, the Whitney Biennial, the Museum's signature exhibition, has become the most important survey of the state of contemporary art in the United States. In addition to its landmark

exhibitions, the Museum is known internationally for events and educational programs of exceptional significance and as a center for research, scholarship, and conservation.

Founded by sculptor and arts patron Gertrude Vanderbilt Whitney in 1930, the Whitney was first housed on West 8th Street in Greenwich Village. The Museum relocated in 1954 to West 54th Street and, in 1966, inaugurated its present home, designed by Marcel Breuer, at 945 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side. While its vibrant program of exhibitions and events continues uptown, the Whitney is moving forward with a new building project, designed by Renzo Piano, in downtown Manhattan. Located at the corner of Gansevoort and Washington Streets in the Meatpacking District, at the southern entrance to the High Line, the new building, which has generated immense momentum and support, will enable the Whitney to vastly increase the size and scope of its exhibition and programming space. Ground will be broken on the new building in May 2011, and it is projected to open to the public in 2015.

Current and Upcoming Exhibitions at the Whitney Museum of American Art

Singular Visions	Through November 2011
Karthik Pandian: Unearth	Through March 27, 2011
Modern Life: Edward Hopper and His Time	Through April 10, 2011
Legacy: The Emily Fisher Landau Collection	Through May 1, 2011
Glenn Ligon: AMERICA	Through June 5, 2011
Dianna Molzan: Bologna Meissen	Opens April 8, 2011
More Than That: Films by Kevin Jerome Everson	April 28–September 18, 2011
Breaking Ground: The Whitney's Founding Collection	April 28–September 18, 2011
Cory Arcangel: Pro Tools	May 26–September 11, 2011
Lyonel Feininger: At the Edge of the World	June 30–October 16, 2011

The Whitney Museum is located at 945 Madison Avenue at 75th Street, New York City. Museum hours are: Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. General admission: \$18. Full-time students and visitors ages 19–25 and 62 & over: \$12. Visitors 18 & under and Whitney members: FREE. Admission to the Kaufman Astoria Studios Film & Video Gallery only: \$6. Admission is pay-what-you-wish on Fridays, 6–9 p.m. For general information, please call (212) 570-3600 or visit whitney.org.

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