

Dianna Molzan
Earthquake Weather

September, 17 - November 12, 2015

kaufmann repetto is happy to announce *Earthquake Weather*, Dianna Molzan's first solo painting show at the gallery.

In Dianna Molzan's work, paint, canvas and wood are the starting point for a deeper investigation of the medium that both upends and embraces traditional forms of painting as a means to speak about larger cultural norms and customs.

With an additive approach that is concerned with style as much as formal experimentation, Molzan's paintings – often referred to as painting-objects – create unexpected visual experiences that are essentially abstract and yet often deadpan in their depiction of everyday objects. Coins, fringe, stuffed pillows, as well as art historical references ranging from genre floral still life painting to postminimalism, are reoccurring elements found in Molzan's work.

Earthquake Weather is a show about many things, but mostly it is about inherited belief systems and structures, handed down and perpetuated over centuries of human activity that continue to guide our present cultural climate. For instance, many people in the world eat with forks, knives and spoons, and though they come in different shapes and styles (akin to type fonts) and are made from disposable plastic to the best sterling silver, the why and when of their invention is trivia for the curious, but not necessarily for the everyday user. Sitting at a table to eat, much like putting paint on a smooth surface for others to contemplate, is a designed experience developed over many centuries with each generation slightly altering and refining the parameters.

The title of the show came from a casual conversation the artist had with a stranger in passing. It is not uncommon for people in Los Angeles, where Molzan lives, to observe, "Looks like earthquake weather today." Despite a lack of scientific evidence showing a connection between the two (maybe one of the few calamities unaffected by global warming), some continue to believe that a certain type of weather can predict earthquakes. It is of course also much discussed how a portion of the population does not believe global warming is a problem caused by human activity, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary. That so much of what we do or believe or value seems highly pre-determined yet also arbitrary was the guiding idea for the work in *Earthquake Weather*.

Dianna Molzan (b. 1972, Tacoma) lives and works in Los Angeles. Her recent solo shows include *Grand Tourist*, ICA Boston, Boston (2012); *Bologna Meissen*, Whitney Museum of American Art, New York (2011).

Amongst the various group shows, Dianna Molzan's work has also been featured in *The Forever Now: Painting in the New Millennium*, MoMA, New York (2014); *Variations: Conversations in and Around Painting*, LACMA, Los Angeles (2014); *Painter Painter*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2013); *All of this and nothing*, Hammer Museum, Los Angeles (2011). Her works are included, among others, in the collection of the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles; Rubell Family Collection/Contemporary Arts Foundation, Miami; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; University of Chicago, Booth School of Business, Chicago; Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis; Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.