

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHRISTOPHER LE BRUN: MAKING LIGHT
OCTOBER 7 – NOVEMBER 11, 2022
ALBERTZ BENDA, LA



(Left) *Happen*, 2021. Oil on canvas. 63 x 55 3/8 inches | 160 x 140.5 cm.
(Right) *Making Light 3*, 2021. Oil on paper. 30 3/8 x 40 7/8 inches | 77 x 104 cm.

Painters make light, writers describe it.
-Christopher Le Brun

LOS ANGELES, CA: albertz benda will host Christopher Le Brun: *Making Light*, the artist's third solo exhibition with the gallery and the first in Los Angeles. Opening October 7th, *Making Light* brings together an eponymous group of paintings that deepen Le Brun's engagement with major existential, aesthetic and formal questions of painting.

In the artist's words, "a painting is a real thing that behaves like a metaphor." Referring both to itself - its own material and colors - as well as objects beyond itself - that which it alludes to - each piece in this exhibition explores meaning as both analogic and literal within the context of representation. In *Making Light 3*, a thick mass of sweeping green brushstrokes traveling across the confines of a sheet of paper renders both a suggestive landscape and a formal exploration of color and surface.

Recalling *Composer*, Le Brun's 2017 solo exhibition with the gallery, *Making Light* renews the artist's investigation of the parallels between visual and auditory experience. Fascinated by the intermingling of sight and sound in our everyday life, the artist explains, "In order to convey something of what I mean by space in painting, I think it's helpful to start by considering how sound exists in the space surrounding us."

When focusing on a painting, we effectively limit our perception entirely to a single flat surface. Our sense of vision would surely prefer to spring back again, to return into the natural element — the fully dimensional openness of the world — but it cannot, other than by means of picturing imaginary space.

albertz benda

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Le Brun continues, “Unlike everything else, the painting stands still as if removed from time. Still and flat, it is subject to the day’s changing light, but experientially separate from it. Even as the painting seems, out of itself and the play of its colours, to quietly generate light, its stillness generates the unending movement of our thoughts.”

The works in *Making Light* encourage the viewer’s mind to wander and forge new associations within the resonant stillness of the static plane. To this extent, Le Brun writes, “As we look at and think about the painting, we gather thoughts and memories from an imaginary and conjured far and near.” If it is the painter who makes light, then it is our response that opens on to a view.

ABOUT CHRISTOPHER LE BRUN

Christopher Le Brun is one of the leading British painters of his generation, celebrated internationally since the 1980s, making both figurative and abstract work in media including painting, sculpture, watercolour and print. He was also an instrumental public figure in his role as President of the Royal Academy of Arts in London from 2011 to 2019. He was awarded a Knighthood for services to the Arts in the 2021 New Year Honours. Le Brun employs a mastery of touch and colour alongside a profound understanding of art history and a wide range of visual, musical and literary sources to engage with the major existential, aesthetic and formal questions of painting. His works are notable for their layered, complex, scintillating surfaces, which he describes as ‘non-ironic, primary’ responses to the act of painting.

ABOUT ALBERTZ BENDA

Founded in 2015, albertz benda is a contemporary art gallery with an international program exploring material and textility as well as cultural and social dialogues. Our Chelsea space is host to rotating exhibitions with an emphasis on solo presentations of emerging artists, new research into historic figures, and thematic group exhibitions. In 2021, the gallery expanded to a second location in Los Angeles. Featuring an evolving identity separate from our New York program, the LA space is realized within the context of a domestic setting, advancing new connections between visual arts, craft, and design.

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