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David Ostrowski "Emotional Paintings" at Peres Projects, Berlin

May 9-2014



David Ostrowski's second solo exhibition at Peres Projects, "Emotional Paintings" presents a new body of work from the artist's ongoing F series. Minimal, empty, unpainted: these words are often used to describe David Ostrowski's paintings. Their blank surfaces, failed gestures and jarring colours appear "unpainted" and cold upon first glance, but in fact, they are as a vastly intimate peak into the artist's romantic musings, intentions and relationships. The "unpainted" line of spray paint is more than it at first seems to be, representing the aborted gesture of a 21st century German studio painter as he plays with the mediums inherent spontaneity, exploring the infinite realm of possibility that lives between the nozzle of the spray can and the canvas. The *Footsie* paintings, footprints on an otherwise untreated canvas, act as portraits of the artist's muses, the women who fill his life and studio, and the beauty that he finds in their feet.

Ostrowski often refers to pop culture pillars like *Seinfeld* or *Between Two Ferns*, creating a context of irony and humor for his work to live in. Perhaps an even more fitting reference for the viewer could be *Sliding Doors*, the early 2000's RomCom film about chance, romance and the lack of control we have over our daily lives.

David Ostrowski (b. 1981) completed his studies at the Kunstakademie Dusseldorf in 2009. At the end of his studies under Albert Oehlen at the Akademie in Dusseldorf, Ostrowski lost almost every painting he ever made due to a devastating electrical fire in his studio. Every labored painting, layer after layer of tedious oil paint mixed and applied painstakingly with brushes, perfectly treated canvases, gone in a instant. The only thing left to show for all of these years of effort and study was a single surviving canvas, raw except the shadow of the stretcher bars painted in soot by the flames of the fire. Ultimate failure, giving way to endless possibilities.

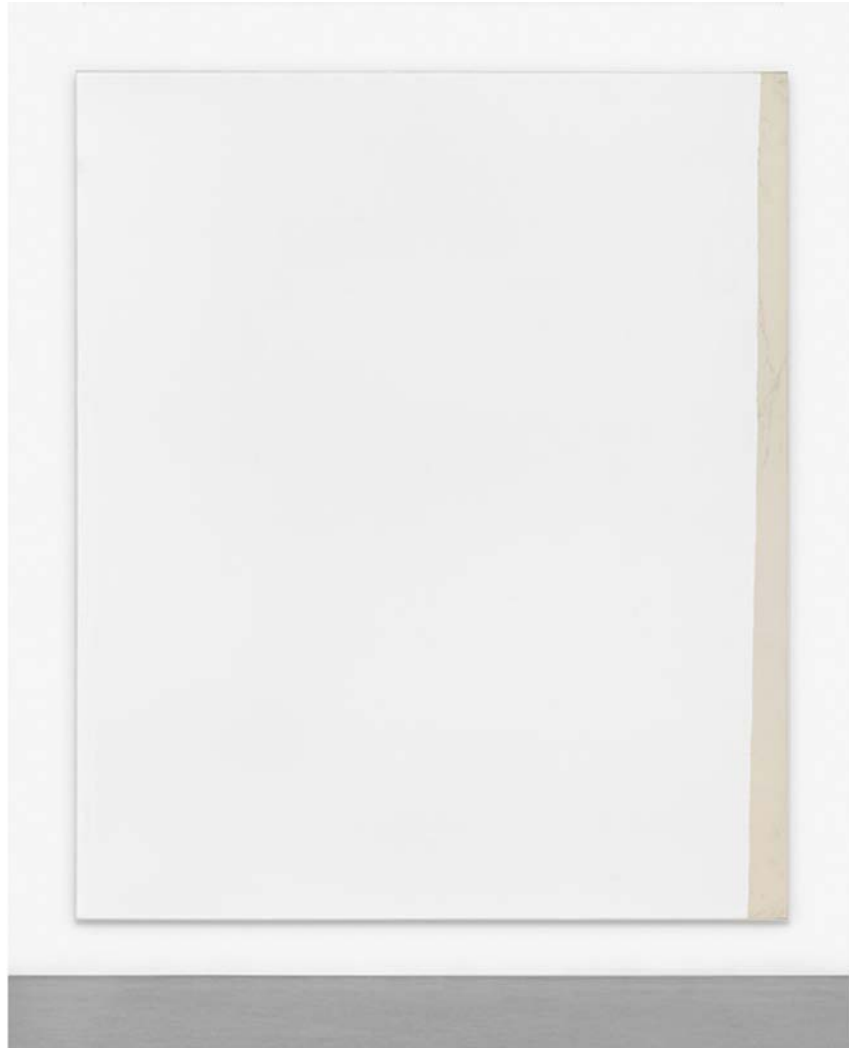
David finds exhilarating the opportunity to fail, liberation in the belief of beauty in raw materials and romanticism in the immortalisation of a muse in a fleeting footprint, preserved and exhibited for all to see.

at Peres Projects, Berlin
until 21 June 2014

Above – *F (I want to die forever)*, 2014



F (dann lieber nein), 2014



F (The best part of the story), 2014



F (Musik ist Scheisse), 2014







David Ostrowski, "Emotional Paintings" installation views at Peres Projects, Berlin, 2014
Courtesy: Peres Projects, Berlin. Photos: Hans-Georg Gaul, Berlin.

The exhibition debuted on the occasion of the 10th Berlin Gallery Weekend which is supported by BMW Berlin and Audemars Piguet – Le Brassus.