

Kostarias, Yannis, "Lesley Vance, A Kind of Painting" *The Steidz Magazine*, September 21, 2017, pp. 6-12

# LESLEY VANCE

A KIND OF  
PAINTING



BY YANNIS KOSTARIAS

→  
Lesley Vance, detail of *Untitled*, 2016,  
oil on linen, 50.8 x 40.6 x 2.5 cm,  
courtesy of the artist & David Kordansky Gallery,  
Los Angeles, Photo © Fredrik Nilsen

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**ON THE PATH TO NEW ABSTRACT EXPRESSION,  
LESLEY VANCE BYDASSES THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CANVAS,  
GIVING FREE REIGN TO BRUSLISTROKES IN MOTION\_**

←  
Lesley Vance, *Untitled*, 2014,  
oil on linen, 68.5 x 53.4 x 2.5 cm,  
courtesy of the artist & Xavier Hufkens  
Gallery, Brussels, Photo © Fredrik Nilsen

Lesley Vance demonstrates a relentless commitment to the conception, abstraction and deconstruction of a painted canvas. Her body of work remarkably implements diligent brushwork that highlights erased and obscured compositions. Vance lives and works in Los Angeles and her artworks have been exhibited internationally; from Unites States to Germany, Italy, United Kingdom and the Netherlands. From still life creations to abstract paintings and sculptures, the L.A. based artist features a wide variety. Actually, she has also been rather successful with ceramics. Her still life painting period was succeeded by abstraction, introducing a new era in her career via a series of aesthetically blurry abstract visualisations. At the same time, she takes her artistic technique significantly forward due to her personal need to modify her communication with the viewers through a new form of creative expression on canvas.

Beautiful examples of erasure characterize her work in the last several years. With her painting technique, the artist aims to obscure or to artificially introduce an abstract representation. Hand movements reflect rhythmic paint applications on canvas rendering abstract geometric compositions and other elusively amorphous depictions. Vance's techniques embrace a hidden visual vocabulary that conveys notions of mystery, dynamism and disillusion. Dynamic curves painted by a various range of contradictory angles and colours consist an interesting interplay of stroke arrangements on canvas; they potentially unveil more personal traces of her memories.

Still, what is delightful about her art is a continuous contrast between deliberately ethereal forms of abstract visualizations and her zeal for darker backgrounds. Using warm vibrant colours and fragmented configurations on the canvas, she successfully manages to bring out motion and sensation. On one hand, her depictions demonstrate a sort of slight illusion which create confusion at the first glance. On the other hand, this creative tension generates a wake-up call or a creative exercise for the mind, which finally ends up in something intimate and meaningful.

Vance's work seems to embody some art references to artists, such as Francis Picabia's abstract period. She re-introduces these abstract compositions into contemporary depictions and conversations with her audience. Executed in oil on linen and water-colours, Vance employs a palette that creates a dynamic fusion of luminous shapes in contradiction with darkened backgrounds. Her paintings serve as serial explorations into creative temperament, dynamic flow and spatial movement. Challenging the geometrical forms of her amorphous arrangements on canvas, the artist manages to methodically experiment the wide range of visual effects' interactions that can be captured by her spatial interpretation and engaging use of colours. //

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**LESLEY  
VANCE**

Los Angeles, USA  
born in 1977

represented by  
Xavier Hufkens  
Gallery, Brussels  
and David  
Kordansky  
Gallery,  
Los Angeles

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~~«Vance's techniques  
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