

כלכליסט

Massive **FORCE**

Reut Barnea, June 22nd, 2014



Yonatan Ullman, 'Recover, Absorb, Contain, Continue'- detail from 'FORCE' exhibition

Yonatan Ullman is a thinker. One concludes this when observing his paintings, and becomes reassured when reading the accompanying exhibition text.

After having parts of it shown in numerous locations around the world ('Compound Where house' in Philadelphia in 2008, 'S.V.A gallery' in New York in 2010 and 'X-Initiative' in New York that same year) Ullman's new exhibition 'FORCE', featuring fourteen giant-scale multi-layered paintings and fourteen coinciding printed digital sketches, will be fully exhibited for the first time at RAD Gallery, in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Even though in some respects these paintings appear to continue the tradition of the Abstract Expressionist's 'Action Painting' (namely Jackson Pollock, Willem De Kooning and Mark Rothko), the last thing that could be said of them is that they exist for the sole purpose of the gesture - behind them lies endless thought and planning.

Ullman bases the entire painted reality on the three primary colors - Red, Blue and Yellow. From these, he pre-mixed fourteen shades of brown (coinciding with the number of paintings in the entire series). One layer is dedicated to each shade of brown. Ullman applies masking materials between every layer of paint that he casts. Eventually these masking materials are pulled away creating almost sculptural three dimensional peels between the different layers. Some of these are soft and tender, others almost ask of the viewer to continue peeling them. Using this layered method, Ullman creates powerful images - from a cement mixer, to terrifying drainage pipes, to a volcanic eruption.

bottom line: Intelligent work that is worth seeing



Yonatan Ullman, 'Erupt' - detail from FORCE exhibition

