

For immediate release

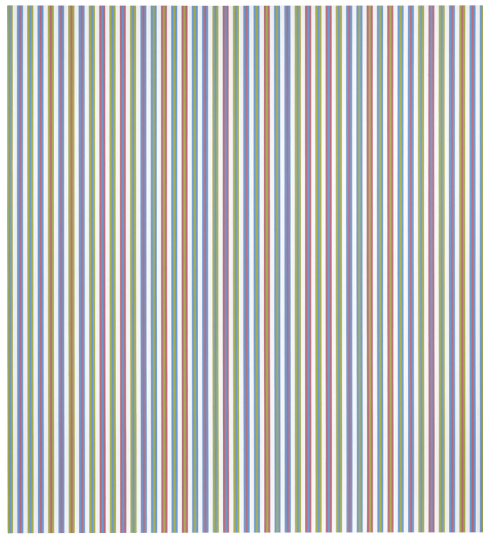
BRIDGET RILEY

The Stripe Paintings 1961–2014

13 June – 25 July 2014

Private view: Thursday 12 June, 6 – 8 PM

Press preview guided by special guest Richard Shiff: 10 AM



Elysium, 2003/1973
Acrylic on linen
261 x 236 cm (102 3/4 x 92 7/8 inches)

David Zwirner is pleased to present an exhibition by British artist Bridget Riley organised in collaboration with Karsten Schubert. Featuring paintings and studies selected from all periods of her career, from 1961 to 2014, the show will be installed throughout the three floors of the gallery, making it the artist's first major survey in London since her 2003 retrospective at Tate Britain.

"Bridget Riley is undoubtedly one of the most significant artists working today and her influence on present and future generations cannot be underestimated," says David Zwirner. "I am honoured to be able to show such a definitive selection of her work in my London gallery."

Riley's dedication to the interaction of form and colour has led to a continued exploration of perception. From the early 1960s, she has used elementary shapes such as lines, circles, curves, and squares to create visual experiences that actively engage the viewer, at times triggering optical sensations of vibration and movement. Focusing on her recurrent use of stripes over the past fifty years, the exhibition

demonstrates the visual variety she achieves by changes in colour, weight, rhythm, and density. Opening with an iconic black-and-white, horizontal stripe painting from 1961, the show includes her first stripe works in colour from later that decade, as well as a large two-panel diagonal stripe painting, *Prairie* (2003/1971), and vertical stripe works from the 1980s that demonstrate her "Egyptian" palette. The survey finishes with the artist's newest body of horizontal stripes, including several paintings that have never been exhibited before. Works on paper related to the paintings are also on view.

The show presents a select and illuminating overview of Riley's practice, which first achieved widespread international acclaim with the 1965 exhibition *The Responsive Eye* at The Museum of Modern Art in New York. Riley has returned to stripes at crucial moments in her career, demonstrating their significance for her overall engagement with form, colour, and perception. As shown at the gallery, their varied palettes, tempos, and sizes further testify to the importance of nature in the artist's work, which she understands as "the dynamism of visual forces—an event rather than an appearance." Inspired by painters of the past including Georges Seurat, Paul Cézanne, and Henri Matisse, Riley's abstract innovations offer a groundbreaking way of looking.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue published by David Zwirner, which will feature new scholarship by art historian Richard Shiff, an interview from 1978 with Robert Kudielka—one of her foremost critics—and an essay on the artist's wall paintings by Paul Moorhouse, 20th Century Curator at the National Portrait Gallery in London. Additionally, the book features archival imagery of Riley and her work since the 1960s, as well as illustrations of her 1987 and 2014 commissions for St Mary's Hospital in West London.

(continue to next page)

Born in London in 1931, **Bridget Riley** attended Goldsmiths College from 1949 to 1952 and the Royal College of Art from 1952 to 1955. In 1974, she was made a CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) and in 1999, appointed the Companion of Honour. In 1968, she won the International Prize for Painting at the Venice Biennale. In 2003, the artist was awarded the Praemium Imperiale in Tokyo. She received the Kaiser Ring of the City of Goslar, Germany in 2009 and the Rubens Prize of the City of Siegen, Germany in 2012.

Recent exhibitions include *Bridget Riley: Paintings and Related Work* (2010–2011), on view at the Sunley Room at the National Gallery, London, featuring recent paintings by the artist alongside Old Master and Impressionist works. Also in London in 2010, the National Portrait Gallery presented *Bridget Riley: From Life*, an exhibition of Riley's little-known sketches drawn from life. Other recent international museum shows include *Bridget Riley: Flashback*, which first went on view at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool in 2009; *Bridget Riley: Rétrospective* at the Musée d'Art Moderne de la Ville de Paris in Paris in 2008; *Bridget Riley: Paintings and Drawings 1961–2004* at the Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney in 2004–2005; *Bridget Riley: New Work* at the Museum Haus Esters and Kaiser Wilhelm Museum, Krefeld, Germany in 2002; and *Bridget Riley: Reconnaissance* at the Dia Center for the Arts, New York from 2000–2001.

Riley's visual vocabulary is complemented by her numerous books and essays in which she explores concepts pertaining to her own practice as well as the works of several other artists. Riley has also co-curated exhibitions on Paul Klee (Hayward Gallery, 2002) and Piet Mondrian (Tate Gallery, 1996).

The artist lives and works in London.

Special Events

Public talk with Bridget Riley at Tate Modern

Saturday 21 June, 2 PM

Bridget Riley will discuss Henri Matisse's cut-outs at Tate Modern. The event coincides with the museum's exhibition *Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs* (17 April – 7 September 2014). Tickets £12. Contact Tate Modern for availability and further details.

Book launch and signing with Bridget Riley and Robert Kudielka at David Zwirner

Monday 23 June, 6 – 8 PM

A revised and expanded edition of *Robert Kudielka on Bridget Riley: Essays and Interviews since 1972* (Ridinghouse), first published in 2005, will be launched at the gallery during the exhibition. Free and open to the public. For more information and to reserve signed copies (numbers are limited, please note there is a maximum of two copies per person), contact Electra Soutzoglou at +44 (0)20 3538 3165 or electra@davidzwirner.com.

Brown's London Art Weekend

Special weekend hours: Saturday 5 July (10 AM – 5 PM) & Sunday 6 July (12 PM – 5 PM)

David Zwirner will participate in this inaugural "open house" weekend where over 80 Mayfair galleries and auction houses will open their doors to the public for tours, talks, and other programs. For further details, please visit brownslondonartweekend.co.uk.

Public talk with Bridget Riley and Lynne Cooke at David Zwirner

Details forthcoming

For all press enquiries and to RSVP to the 12 June press preview, contact

Jenny Lea +44 (0)20 3538 3165 jenny@davidzwirner.com