

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Albertz Benda Presents
Christopher Le Brun: Composer**

On view March 2 – April 15, 2017

**Albertz Benda
515 West 26th Street
New York, NY**

February 25 – April 27, 2017

**The Gallery at Windsor
3125 Windsor Boulevard
Vero Beach, FL**



Christopher Le Brun, *Symphony*, 2016.
Oil on canvas, 84 3/4 x 106 1/4 inches (215 x 270 cm)

New York, NY, January 4, 2017 – Albertz Benda is pleased to announce *Composer*, two concurrent solo exhibitions by British artist Christopher Le Brun at Albertz Benda, New York and The Gallery at Windsor, Vero Beach, FL. Together, these encompass a new phase of Le Brun's work which highlights the relationship between painting and music.

In 2015 the pianist Annie Yim premiered a new piano composition by Richard Birchall based on *Cloud*, one of Christopher Le Brun's paintings. The concert was held in an exhibition space surrounded by Le Brun's work, an experience that has encouraged the artist to make more explicit how central to his imaginative process music and ideas of composition have always been. A glance at the titles of Le Brun's paintings made over the past decades confirms this: *Sound, Score, Tristan, Scriabin, Walton*. From a young age and throughout his formative years, music has had a profound impact on Le Brun.

With an emphasis on color and texture, Le Brun creates paintings that are not only alive with possibility and a celebration of the sensuality but are also very much composed. Classical music is defined by the extensive and refined structure of the compositions, where complex auditory space enables fine distinctions of emotion, imagination, and meaning. With his paintings, Le Brun addresses the unclaimed space between artwork and its audience.

albertz benda

515 w 26th st | new york, ny | 10001
tel 212.244.2579 | www.albertzbenda.com

The title *Composer* is deliberately intended to highlight the aesthetic and essential qualities of painting such as shape, scale, texture and color and their organization by composition. The term usually refers to the creation of musical works expressed in written notation. Chords, space, blocks, texture, tone, rhythm, arrangement, notation, scoring, layering, much of this language speaks equally to painting and music. Whether Kandinsky and Schoenberg or Philip Guston and Morton Feldman, there have always been these strong relationships and understandings. Under the hand of the painter and composer the raw material of noise becomes sound, visual chaos becomes form, and matter aspires to art and music.

The Albertz Benda presentation, opening in New York, will feature 12 new paintings, selected to demonstrate the breadth of scale in his recent works. The Gallery at Windsor will feature new works and loans in a show of 16 paintings. Accompanying the shows will be a fully illustrated book with an essay by the acclaimed curator Barbara Rose, a conversation between Christopher Le Brun and architect Sir David Chipperfield moderated by Tim Marlow, Artistic Director of the Royal Academy, and an introduction by exhibition curator Emile Bruner.

About Christopher Le Brun

Christopher Le Brun (b. 1951) lives and works in London. Born in Portsmouth, he trained at the Slade and Chelsea Schools of Art in London.

Early in his career, he appeared in numerous group exhibitions, such as the influential *Zeitgeist* exhibition at the Martin-Gropius Bau, Berlin, and from 1980 on, in many solo exhibitions in Britain, Europe and America. Le Brun participated in the Venice Biennale in 1982 and received the prestigious John Moores Prize in 1978 and 1980.

Le Brun was elected President of the Royal Academy in December 2011. He is the 26th President since Sir Joshua Reynolds, 1768, and the youngest to be elected since Lord Leighton in 1878.

Le Brun's work is in numerous public collections, including the British Museum, London; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Astrup Fearnley, Oslo; Museum of Modern Art, New York; The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Tate, London, Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney and the Yale Center for British Art, Connecticut amongst many others.

About Albertz Benda

Albertz Benda opened in fall 2015 and is devoted to a contemporary visual arts program focusing on rediscoveries as well as new introductions — from seminal figures in their field whose work warrants further exploration to debut presentations of artists that are new to New York.

About the Gallery at Windsor

Founded in 2002 by Alannah Weston, The Gallery at Windsor is an independent art space at the heart of the community. The Gallery invites curators to respond to the space with museum-quality shows of contemporary paintings, works on paper and photography. Today, the Hon. Hilary M. Weston serves as Creative Director for The Gallery.

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Media Contacts

For further information, images or to arrange interviews, members of the media may contact:

Kat Mills
Blue Medium, Inc.
+1 (212) 675-1800
kat@bluemedium.com

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