

For immediate release

## SUZAN FRECON

### New York recent oil paintings

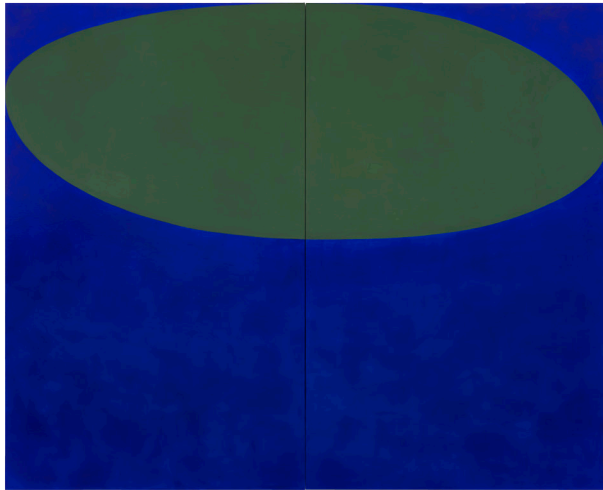
September 14 – October 14, 2017

Opening reception: Thursday, September 14, 6-8 PM

### London watercolors and small oil paintings

September 1 – 23, 2017

Private view: Thursday, August 31, 6-8 PM



*ultra terre verte, 2016*  
Oil on linen  
Two panels, overall: 87 3/8 x 108 inches (221.9 x 274.3 cm)

David Zwirner is pleased to present recent paintings and works on paper by Suzan Frecon in concurrent exhibitions in New York and London, marking the artist's first show in London and her fourth overall solo presentation with the gallery.

For almost five decades, Frecon has created abstract paintings that address issues of horizontality and verticality, asymmetrical balances, and interacting arrangements of color. Each composition is the result of a deliberative process guided by careful attention to spatial relationships. Working slowly, she accrues paint gradually, allowing the process of arriving at a given configuration to take ultimate precedence.

On view at 525 West 19th Street in New York will be large-scale oil paintings composed with asymmetrical curves that result in minor and major measured areas of color. One area cannot exist without the other(s) and each can be read, often interchangeably, as full and/or empty space. In tandem with the resulting colors and variations of the paint itself, these works convey their engagement

with natural light. Depending on the viewer's position and the time of the day, the contrasts of matte and sheen, positive and negative, and immediacy and radiance, combine to create an ongoing visual experience of always varying subtleties.

In some works, Frecon has arranged two panels side by side (rather than stacked), realizing compositions that depart from the central, vertical "line" in a play of dissonance, asymmetry, and imbalance between areas of color that nonetheless hold in proportional relationships to each other. These areas also stem from an underlying, rational horizontal line—invisible, but still generating the forms of curved openings or enclosures to become one irregular whole. All areas are ultimately generated by the predetermined outside mean of vertical to horizontal. The composition in each particular painting is the foundation of the paint's culmination.

On view at 24 Grafton Street in London will be works on paper utilizing form found in the artist's oil paintings. However, in contrast to the paintings, whose deliberate measurements underlie the compositions, her watercolors also engage the relationship between paint and paper support. Each predetermined sheet—often an agate-burnished old Indian ledger page—has its own innate character, properties, and irregular shape; its creases, holes, blemishes, and even faint writings become an integral component of the final watercolor. Yet, within Frecon's practice, all works are considered part of the same unity, and one painting leads to another.

"I think that you can only understand paintings by actually seeing them. Their truth is the paint," Frecon says.

The exhibitions will be accompanied by a catalogue published by David Zwirner Books, featuring an essay by the art historian Richard Shiff and reproductions of individual works as well as installation views to best convey the experience of seeing the paintings.

**Suzan Frecon** was born in 1941 in Mexico, Pennsylvania. Following a degree in fine arts from the Pennsylvania State University in 1963, she spent three years at the École nationale supérieure des Beaux-Arts in Paris, and studying paintings in museums throughout Europe.

Since 2008, her work has been represented by David Zwirner. Previous shows at the gallery in New York include *Suzan Frecon: recent painting* (2010) and *Suzan Frecon: paper* (2013), a large-scale presentation of her works on paper from the past decade, which was presented concurrently with an exhibition of watercolors at Lawrence Markey in San Antonio, Texas. In 2015, *Suzan Frecon: oil paintings and sun* included the artist's recent large-scale oil paintings at David Zwirner, New York.

Frecon has exhibited widely in the United States and internationally. In 2008, her work was the subject of a major solo exhibition, *form, color, illumination: Suzan Frecon painting*, at The Menil Collection in Houston, Texas, which traveled to Kunstmuseum Bern in Switzerland. She has participated in a number of group exhibitions such as the 2000 and 2010 Whitney Biennial.

In 2016, Frecon received the Artists Award from the Artists' Legacy Foundation in Oakland, California.

Permanent collections which hold works by the artist include the Art Institute of Chicago; Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts; Kunstmuseum Bern, Switzerland; The Menil Collection, Houston, Texas; The Morgan Library & Museum, New York; The Museum of Fine Arts, Boston; The Museum of Modern Art, New York; National Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York. She lives and works in New York.

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