

Front Gallery  
**For Immediate Release**

**Melissa Kretschmer: *Excavations***

December 11, 2016 – February 5, 2017

Opening Reception: Sunday, December 11, 6-8pm

Artist Talk: Saturday, January 21. 2:30pm

Lesley Heller Workspace is pleased to present Melissa Kretschmer: *Excavations*, the artists' first show with the gallery since 2007. Kretschmer, who has shown extensively throughout Europe and the United States is known for her bold yet minimal works which straddle a space between painting and sculpture. In *Excavations*, Kretschmer presents a series of new works which explore the edges of the painting through bringing them into the center of the work. The paintings' multi layered surfaces: vellum, gesso, gouache, beeswax and graphite on cut and gouged plywood, result in works that explore depth through minimal planes and palettes and emphasize wood as both a material and a surface.

The process in Kretschmer's work forms its content. Barbara Rose described Kretschmer's paintings as "images that emerge out of the process of using materials to create complex surfaces."<sup>1</sup> She cuts through the layers of her materials with the blade of a table saw, excavating the inside of the painting to reveal its form and the relationship of the edge to its center.

The artworks in *Excavations* illustrate Kretschmer's intentional mark-making which peels back the layers of her paintings to reveal their language of materials. This series continues a conversation central to abstract painting; that of addressing issues of surface and support, materials and process.

*Melissa Kretschmer (b. 1962, Santa Monica, CA) has exhibited her work nationally and internationally for the past 25 years, including Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, France, England, Scotland, Denmark, and the United States. Drew Hammond will be writing the essay for her upcoming catalogue raisonne'. Her work has been included in solo and group exhibitions in venues such as Konrad Fischer Galerie (Düsseldorf and Berlin, Germany), Galerie Tschudi (Glarus and Zuoz, Switzerland), Galeria Alfonso Artiaco (Naples, Italy), Yvon Lambert (Paris, France), Galerie Arnaud Lefebvre (Paris, France), ACE (Los Angeles, CA), Julian Pretto (New York, NY), Stark Gallery (New York, NY), Tibor de Nagy (New York, NY), Galerie Gisèle Linder (Basel, Switzerland), Galerie Greta Meert (Brussels, Belgium), Esbjerg Kunstmuseum (Esbjerg, Denmark), Palazzo della Arti Napoli (Naples, Italy), Caledonian Hall, Royal Botanic Garden (Edinburgh, Scotland). Her work is included in public and private collections worldwide, such as Wadsworth Atheneum (Hartford, CT), Centre Pompidou (Paris, France), FNAC (Paris, France), Allianz (Berlin, Germany), University of California (Los Angeles, CA), Frederick R. Weisman Art Foundation (Los Angeles, CA), among many others. She lives and works in New York City.*

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For more information or to request images, please email [info@lesleyheller.com](mailto:info@lesleyheller.com) or call 212-410-6120.

<sup>1</sup> Roffino, Sara. "Q&A: Curator Barbara Rose on Melissa Kretschmer and Martin Kline." *Blouin Artinfo*, 18 May 2016. [online]