

Galerie Lisa Kandhofer
 Brucknerstrasse 4
 1040 Vienna
 Austria
 www.kandhofer.com

WILL YOU STILL LOVE ME TOMORROW NICOLE WITTENBERG

8 June - 15 July 2017

Preview: 7 June 2017, 7 pm

Galerie Lisa Kandhofer is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition of Nicole Wittenberg in Austria.

There's Got to be a Morning After

There've been a couple morning-afters when a beautiful stranger, on seeing the painting near my bed, exclaimed, „*Oh! It's a cock!*“ I usually ask what he thought it was. „*Last night I just thought it was, you know, energy.*“ And he wasn't wrong either time.

The little painting, one of Nicole Wittenberg's **Cocksuckers**, is a like a visual turbine, painted in bright red and cool white, with the distinct virtue of never turning pink. She finds strong images that she works and re-works, and she discovers fresh ways to rebuild the image through the process of painting—varying her marks, thicknesses and colors. That's why it's so useful to see a big group of them, so you can grasp the technical inventiveness and painterly sophistication of what at first, in isolation, can feel like a visual equivalent of a poke in the eye—although you've never enjoyed a poke so much.

And to be fair to my one-night-stands, Wittenberg's paintings are a little out of place in a bedroom—the setting throws off their perfectly calibrated balance between powerhouse image and abstract form. “Bedroom paintings” usually take it easier on everybody. Wittenberg's paintings want to stake their claim to grander semi-public spaces, and they succeed. I've seen even the small ones hold a wall against much larger works.

The recent paintings can be grouped into the rough categories: **Kissing**, **Cock Sucking**, and **Pussy Eating**. These are pictures of action, which Wittenberg aligns with the activity of painting, one she perceives to be as endless as the operations of desire itself. She's one of the most playful and forceful painters I know.

—Jarrett Earnest, Miami 2017

Nicole Wittenberg (*1979; San Francisco, US) lives and works in New York.

Her work is included in the **Albertina Museum, Vienna, Austria**; Solomon R. **Guggenheim Museum**; the **Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, MA**; **High Museum of Art, Atlanta, GA**; **Aishti Foundation, Beirut**; **Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME**; **Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME**; **Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME**; **Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME**.

She received her BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 2003.



Nicole Wittenberg
 Back ans White Kiss, 2016,
 Oli on Canvas, 79 x 132 in

Opening Hours: Tue. - Fri. 11am - 7pm | Sat. 11am - 4pm
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