

## Piper Keys Exhibitions

### Lucy Stein *Big Farmer*

13th September to 12th October  
Opening view: Friday 12th September, 6 to 9pm

Lucy Stein exhibits a group of new paintings which take the form of potato prints. Each composition has emerged from combinations of multi-coloured washes and block printing.

Across this series freshly cut potatoes splat and slide over unprimed canvases, which become matted with paint-velum. Each potato's marks describe an erratic yet thinking route around the painting. The works are left around, to pick up studio muck (feathers, lumps of pigment), trodden in by slippers, becoming thread bare at their edges like hessian sack.

This is the collusion of the organic in synthesised nature: drugs, visions (seeing things), biting into a raw potato, the tangy intoxicating smell of aerosol. Stein is influenced by ecclesiastical art and its closeness to the natural world, stain glass, tapestry. Though contrary to her predecessors, like the British Neo-Romantics, she turns this kind of imagery through late-capitalist trauma: we might think of genetically modified crops or potato-shaped pills.

In her paintings Stein locates certain symbols, charismatic objects: eggs, o's, feathers. These symbols carry basic historic meanings, but like those of the dark arts are now sullied. Morose faces appear in stains, yolk brains leak out of an egg head. Inanimate objects receive augmentations: an eye here, a nose there. Instead of simple allegorical paintings there is iconoclastic meltdown.

Lucy Stein has exhibited widely since 2005, holding solo exhibitions at Galerie Gregor Staiger, Zurich; Broadway 1602, New York; Gimpel Fils, London; Stedelijk Museum Bureau, Amsterdam; Jerwood Space, London (with Jo Robertson); Collective Gallery, Edinburgh (with Jo Robertson). She studied at De Ateliers, Amsterdam (2004-06) and BA Fine Art at Glasgow School of Art (2001-04). Stein lives and works in London. She performs in the band Death Shanties, and hosts a radio show for NTS called 'Squirming The Worm'.

Piper Keys is supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Gallery opening hours 12noon to 6pm, Friday to Sunday

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