

HOLLIS TAGGART

Hollis Taggart Presents Justine Otto's First Solo Show in NYC

***All Shades, All Hues, All Blues* On View February 15 – March 16, 2024**

January 31, 2023 – Hollis Taggart is pleased to present *All Shades, All Hues, All Blues*, the Hamburg, Germany-based artist's first solo show in New York City. In her latest body of work, Otto applies her innovative compositional approach and signature palette to a series of figures of musicians created through indeterminate forms and shapes emerging out of abstract backgrounds. Though more figurative than abstract, nothing is obvious about Otto's figuration, with a total lack of clarity as to where a figure ends and an instrument begins, resulting in musicians and their instruments at times blending together into enigmatic compositions that confound the eye. Featuring eleven paintings and one sculpture created over the past two years, *All Shades, All Hues, All Blues* will be on view from February 15 through March 16, 2024, with an opening reception on Thursday, February 15, from 5-8PM. Hollis Taggart will also be presenting Otto's work alongside gallery artist Thomas Agrinier at EXPO Chicago from April 11 through April 14, 2024.

Otto's figuration often nods to archetypes such as generals, cowboys, statesmen, or musicians. Following the successful inclusion of individual paintings by the artist in several group shows at the gallery, *All Shades, All Hues, All Blues* is the first time viewers in New York City can experience Otto's brushwork and obscure portraiture as applied across an entire body of work. While Otto's individual works are mesmerizing, the effect of seeing her technique applied across various images of one archetype is intoxicating. Taken together, the paintings in *All Shades, All Hues, All Blues* are a portrait of an orchestra, with Otto visualizing the experience of listening to music, masterfully capturing the motion of sound through her dynamic use of color and form. Puncturing her dark palette with brief moments of bright color, it is as if the viewer can pick out the beats or accents from the music generated by the paintings in the exhibition.

Otto's visual language not only blends abstraction and figuration but is also heavily influenced by surrealism. In Otto's orchestra, there is a proliferation of fingers and limbs so tangled that the harp in *The Harpist* might have a high-heeled foot; the flutist in *Blower* might have a dozen arms; or the strings might stretch across the painting as if the canvas itself is being played by the group of figures in *Musica Contemporanea*. As art critic and curator Mark Gisbourne notes in the catalogue accompanying the exhibition: "the pictured synthesis of the visual and the aural – of sound and image, musicians and music makers – has a long tradition in painting culture, [...] a synthesis of sublimated facture Justine Otto the painter has uniquely mastered and made her own."

Born in Poland in 1974, Otto moved to Germany at the age of nine. In 1996, she studied at the State Academy of Fine Arts (Städelschule) in Frankfurt am Main, with Peter Angermann and Michael Krebber. Between 1997 and 2000, she worked as a stage designer at the Municipal Theatre Frankfurt and won the Volker-Hinniger Prize in 2005. Otto's works are featured in the permanent collection of the Phillips Collection and in numerous private collections in the United States and Europe. She has had solo exhibitions at Neue Galerie Gladbeck, Frauenmuseum Wiesbaden, Museum Franz Gertsch, Museum Abtei Liesborn, and Städtische Galerie Neunkirchen, among many others. This year, Otto's work will be featured in group exhibitions at Stadtgalerie Kiel and at the National Gallery in Budapest. Otto lives and works in Hamburg.

About Hollis Taggart

Founded in 1979, Hollis Taggart presents significant works of American art, showcasing the trajectory of American art movements from the Hudson River School to American Modernism and the Post-War and Contemporary eras. Its program is characterized by a deep commitment to scholarship and bringing to the

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for the work of under-recognized artists. The gallery has sponsored several catalogue raisonné projects, most recently for the American Surrealist artist Kay Sage, and has been instrumental in advancing knowledge of such artists as Alfred Maurer, Arthur B. Carles, and more recently, Theodoros Stamos, Marjorie Strider, and Michael (Corinne) West. In the summer of 2019, the gallery announced the formal expansion of its primary market business and focus on the presentation of contemporary work. It continues to expand its roster of contemporary artists, focusing on emerging and mid-career talents. With more than 40 years of experience, Hollis Taggart is widely recognized by collectors and curators for its leadership, expertise, and openness, on matters of art history, market trends and opportunities.

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For press inquiries, please contact Aga Sablinska at aga.sablinska@gmail.com or 862-216-6485.