



Advanced Information Sheet

Title

William Tillyer: Against the Grain

Author

Norbert Lynton

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Description

William Tillyer's work has been shown frequently in London and New York since 1970. Admired by fellow artists and collectors, it has mystified critics, even those eager to praise him. Why does his work keep changing? Why does each new phase seem to contradict and undermine the last? Why doesn't he establish a brand image and stick by it?

By looking at his output as a whole, as Lynton does here in the first comprehensive survey of Tillyer's life and work, we can begin to understand its underlying consistency and enjoy its inventiveness. Much of his art is about the beauty of the world, of landscapes, still life and buildings; it can also be sublimely beautiful in its use of colour, brushstrokes and pictorial constructions, or dramatic in its size and contrasts. His thoughts are about *how* art communicates as much as *what*.

Norbert Lynton is the best kind of teacher: pointer in hand, he insists that we look keenly and questioningly at what is before our eyes. The revelations that reward his readers depend on an almost forensic acuteness as well as his deep understanding of modern art. In an era when outrageousness makes the art headlines, Lynton's is a cool and measured voice. Like his subject William Tillyer, he teaches us to be artistically literate.

Artist background information:

William Tillyer was born in 1938 in Middlesborough, northern England. Trained in printmaking, Tillyer has evolved into an astonishingly diverse and talented artist. His work encompasses everything from prints to collages to

watercolours to oil paintings to mixed-media constructions. He has been represented by the Bernard Jacobson Gallery since 1970, and has had numerous solo and collective shows in Britain, US, Australia and many other countries. Today he is one of Britain's most respected artists, with a still-growing reputation.

Author background information:

Norbert Lynton is an art historian and critic, and the author of, amongst others, *The Story of Modern Art* and studies of the work of Paul Klee, Victor Pasmore and Ben Nicholson. He was an art critic for *Art International* and *The Guardian*, and is currently a reviewer and regular contributor to *Modern Painters* magazine. From 1975 to 1989 he taught at the Open University and the University of Sussex where he also served as Dean of European Studies. He lives in Brighton in southern England, and is now professor emeritus at Sussex University. He is also an honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Art, and is on the Council of the National Portrait Gallery. He is one of the UK's most respected and longest standing art historians.

Selling Points

- The first comprehensive survey of William Tillyer's life and work.
- A major new book from acclaimed art historian Norbert Lynton
- Beautifully designed and lavishly illustrated in an original format
- Tillyer is Britain's foremost landscape painter, heir to Constable and Turner
- He has been acclaimed as 'one of the most original painters of our time.'

Marketing and PR