

## **Profile on Allison Malinsky**

### **The light that made body in Barcelona**

**SÒNIA HERNÁNDEZ**

Canvas and textiles, with which the artists works, are the same as the clothes we wear and that rubs our skin. This comparison that is made by Allison Malinsky (Canterbury, New Hampshire, US, 1980) sums up the sensual charge of her work as an artist. Profoundly conditioned by her environment, she assures since she lives in Barcelona— now two and a half years—her painting has changed: “There is more light, more blue, more sky; there is more color of sand, that has the same color as my skin.” In the Catalan capital she can fully dedicate herself to painting in her studio at the beginning of Enric Granados Street, filled with light, “something that is not possible to have in New York, where I lived for 15 years. It is a city filled with shadows. It is a great city and it will always be there, to learn, to do business, and return to, but not to live. It is a difficult city that is really hard on emerging artists,” she assures.

The landscape and the body merge in Malinsky’s work, to be the same in her representation: the light and color achieves volume to pass over from painting to sculpture. The works brought together in the show at Galería Victor Saavedra allow one to contemplate how she produced this embodiment or incarnation.

Trained in sculpture at New York University and later in photography, Malinsky explains that she had had to learn all artistic expressions to arrive at the point she finds herself now: “Photography teaches you light and I also needed to make forms with my hands.” In her three-dimensional canvases, that are prepared from a pattern, “the same as when one sews to make a clothing garment,” the colors of Barcelona and Andalucia are reflected, where she was in 2010 and 2011 thanks to a grant to learn Spanish. [sic, grant to teach English, and learned Spanish there as well]. When she returned to Manhattan, she organized her exhibition, *Retorno* (Return), that called critical attention to her capacity to recreate the landscape.

The works on view now in Barcelona show the most recent step that the artist has made, from her abstract paintings on smooth linen to her canvases and *Fetiches* (Fetishes) supported by rubber. The ovoid form, with this narrow gap in the center of all the pieces, alludes explicitly to the lips of the female sex, more like a symbol of sensuality than of eroticism: it’s a body that feels as if it wraps you and the air penetrates it, the sky or the sea: “I love to make tangible the things you can’t touch,” she commented.

In her use of fabrics she acknowledges the influence of her admired Sam Gilliam, which she also declares her interest for the work of ceramicists Ken Price, Ron Nagle and the sculptress Diane Simpson: “I’m interested in everything, the world intrigues me, because everything inspires me. In art, like science, nothing is invented from nothing, everything is from built up from other things.” En her desire to know her environment, she also relates with artists of her generation, from Barcelona and New York. With some, as in the case of Pablo Jansana Rafael Vargas Suárez or Alberto Borea, among many others who collaborate in her project New York City Art Radio [sic, New York City Arts Radio], a series of conversations about what it means to be an artist that is made into podcast and later transcribed. In July she will return to New York as an Artist Resident in The Cooper Union School, where she hopes to work on these interviews and “draw a lot” in order to continue investigating in the manner in which the textiles take form to convert into the body.

## **The Secrets**

### **THE ARTIST**

Born in the US, Allison Malinsky was trained in sculpture at New York University in New York, NY, and later in photography, finally opting for enriched painting.

### **THE WORK**

Malinsky has encountered the illumination of Barcelona, in all the senses of the word, in order to advance her painting towards a search for the three-dimensional, in which the light and the color achieve volume and adopt a forms that are wrapped in sensuality.

### **Allison Malinsky**

#### **Proper Part of the Whole**

at Galería Victor Saavedra, Barcelona until June 11th, 2016