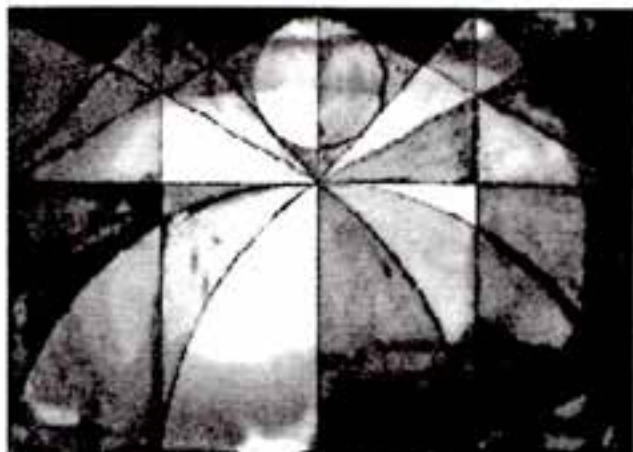


# BERND RIBBECK

## ALISON JACQUES GALLERY - LONDON



BERND RIBBECK, *Untitled*, 2009, India ink on paper. Framed: 36 x 46 cm. Courtesy Alison Jacques Gallery, London.

Perusing the works of German artist Bernd Ribbeck is like walking through a significant part of European art history. These small-scale works of colored abstraction appear to have come directly from the studios of Wassily Kandinsky and his colleagues at the German Bauhaus. Ribbeck treads over history as he successfully appropriates shapes and forms that appear coated in the faded palette of his German ancestors. The visual encyclopedia that informs Ribbeck's practice extends to lesser-known architects such as German Dominikus Böhm

and American Bruce Goff, who in their lifetime were both engaged in the ideals of modernity against the overwhelming desire for greater spirituality.

At Alison Jacques Gallery, Ribbeck's works appear as episodes of color and form pinned against the vastness of the white space, each work delivering another set of possibilities that are altered slightly from the last. Again these timeless works of abstraction appear to lend themselves to the early ambition of Russian Constructivism, with its preoccupation for the deductive simplicity of color and form. The initial white rooms lead into carefully considered spaces where painted walls appear to have absorbed much of the color from the drawings. These are more subtle works that appear to rest perfectly well on the serious tones of blues and purples. Ribbeck's works are objects of real beauty that diverge from such theatrical settings as much as they do from their own place in history.

*Rajesh Punj*