

artcritical



Featured Listing

June 5 2019

Group Show: Downtown Painting at Peter Freeman, Inc.

Downtown is not just a geographical but a cultural signifier, at least in the mind of Alex Katz for whom, in contrast to the commodified and conventional connotations of uptown style, downtown equates with starting out fresh and staying free. The distinction, inherited from the mindset of the 1950s when the younger Katz epitomized a downtown vibe, is perhaps comparable to the north-south dichotomy of Thomas Mann. Tellingly, Merlin James, pictured here and one of the 78 current artists invited to put in a work each of their own choice, lives and paints in Glasgow, Scotland- which is pretty northern in most minds, but qualifies as downtown due to the rugged individualism of his mental cast. Downtown becomes a categorical imperative in the Katzian sense, a rhetorical answer to the question posed by British art theorist Adrian Stokes at the conclusion of his essay, *The Quattro Cento*: "Must we always turn south?" DAVID COHEN

Notes

Presented by Alex Katz.. Group show of 78 artists: David Adamo, Etel Adnan, Brian Belott, Ellen Berkenblit, Katherine Bernhardt, Judith Bernstein, Forrest Bess, Ronald Bladen, Richard Bosman, Katherine Bradford, Zach Bruder, Ernst Caramelle, Francesco Clemente, Gaby Collins-Fernandez, Enzo Cucchi, Verne Dawson, Federico de Francesco, Jan de Vlieghe, Martha Diamond, Steve DiBenedetto, Tyler Dobson, Lois Dodd, Rackstraw Downes, Sally Egbert, Rafael Ferrer, Cy Gavin, Juan Eduardo Gomez, Red Grooms, Marsden Hartley, Al Held, Carmen Herrera, Charline von Heyl, David Humphrey, Callum Innes, Yvonne Jacquette, Merlin James, Bill Jensen, Chantal Joffe, Jesse Kase, Misaki Kawai, Rosy Keyser, Ernst Ludwig Kirchner, Franz Kline, Udomsak Krisanamis, Justen Ladda, Robert Mangold, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Chris Martin, Andrew Masullo, Emma McMillan, Robert Moskowitz, Matt Mullican, Jeanette Mundt, Catherine Murphy, Nabil Nahas, Lauren Nickou, Alejandro Ospina, Virginia Overton, Philip Pearlstein, Nathalie Provosty, Tyson Reeder, David Rhodes, Kenny Rivero, David Salle, Allison Schulnik, Dana Schutz, Trevor Shimizu, Kim Sloane, Travess Smalley, Eduardo Terrazas, Bob Thompson, Mark Wethli, Wendy White, Franklin Williams, Sue Williams, Nick Wilson, Nicole Wittenberg, James Wolanin

Jun 5 to Jul 20

140 Grand Street , New York