

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# ERIN LAWLOR

3 FEBRUARY – 12 MARCH 2022

**NEW YORK, NEW YORK – MILES McENERY GALLERY** is delighted to announce an exhibition of recent work by Erin Lawlor. The artist's second solo exhibition with the gallery will open on 3 February at 525 West 22nd Street and remain on view through 12 March 2022. The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue featuring an essay by Grant Vetter.

Lawlor's most recent body of paintings were produced during various intermittent periods over the last two years — interludes between lockdowns and forced halts. Representing snapshots of windows of time in the artist's studio, "The paintings came to represent moments that encapsulate the peculiar life-drive that goes hand in hand with the hardest of times, along with the tenuous belief that there is joy out the other side of the darkness." Lawlor expresses, "It is, I hope, an exhibition of color, light, and life." Deft, spontaneous, and lyrical, the exhibition reveals the expressive wonder of oil paint and paint handling as a form of pictorial writing.

The artist states, "For my second exhibition at the gallery, I wanted to convey a more varied emotional spectrum with my pictorial language, a breadth of range conveyed not just by color and space, but format, and the speed, or otherwise distillation, of mark-making." The canvas serves as a terrain for complete engagement of the body in which gestural marks in discrete passages of paint come together through an immersive and performative experience. The paintings capture a moment in time and a movement in space.

Lawlor felt it was important to convey "the moods of color and light that subsist beyond, to channel lighter [and brighter] times," as demonstrated in *light ahead*, *strawberry chops*, and the warmth conveyed in *summer storm*. There are musical titles throughout the show, but the smaller works in particular, are packed with bursts of both color and character, that feel like independent vignettes or songs on an album. The large triptych *la vie en rose* is "a joyful and immersive painterly dance." At nearly 13 feet wide, its title is a reference to French singer Édith Piaf's signature song as well as Joan Mitchell's 1979 multi-panel masterpiece that is in The Metropolitan Museum of Art's collection.

Vetter marks Lawlor as one of the most important neo-Baroque artists of the generation. "There is a rare sense of pictorial drama in Lawlor's paintings that borders on creating the narrative sense of a Baroque passion play given over to us in a singular image. We see this in her choice of palette, which is often dominated by somber colors juxtaposed against bright bold passages... The evocative and emotive tenor of Lawlor's works also shows itself through the dance of ribbon-like swaths of paint that are laid down with such virtuosity that they become "singing characters set forth against a compositional chorus of melodic gestures and undulating forms." Lawlor has reinvented Baroque means and themes in a way that has given a new relevance to the practice of abstract painting and to what can be achieved in the world of fine art. The history of painting is a constant in Lawlor's practice. Each new body of work not only uses resources of the past, but also opens new doors onto the horizon of painting's possible future.



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**Miles McEnergy Gallery**

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**ERIN LAWLOR** (b. 1969, in Epping, United Kingdom) received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Paris IV – La Sorbonne, Paris, France.

Recent solo exhibitions include Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY; “Entre chien et loup,” Luca Tommasi Contemporary Art, Milan, Italy; “Memory of a free festival,” Fox/Jensen/McCroy, Auckland, New Zealand; Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY; “Cat on the raz and other tales from fish island,” Espacio Valverde, Madrid, Spain; “Hiraeth,” Fox/Jensen Gallery, Sydney, Australia; Fox/Jensen/McCroy Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand; “Here to the Hidden Hills,” Fifi Projects, San Pedro, Mexico; “onomatopoeia,” Mark Rothko Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia; “New Works,” La Brea Studio Residency, Los Angeles, CA; Rod Barton, Brussels, Belgium; “Maleri. Nu/Paint. Now,” Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek, Copenhagen, Denmark; “Opening Scene,” Galerie Klaus Braun, Stuttgart, Germany; “Four Paintings: London Fields,” George Lawson Gallery, San Francisco, CA and “Long Loud Silence,” Gray Contemporary, Houston, TX.

Recent group exhibitions include “Raven,” Fox Jensen, Sydney, Australia; “Summer Exhibition: Reclaiming Magic,” The Royal Academy of Art, London, United Kingdom; “10,” PM/AM, London, United Kingdom; “Holding Hands” (curated by William Gustafsson) Union Gallery, London, United Kingdom; “Hallucinogenic” (curated by Koen Delaere), Gerhard Hofland Gallery, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; “Wet Wet Wet: Erin Lawlor, Aida Tomescu, Liat Yossifor,” Fox/Jensen/McCroy Gallery, Auckland, New Zealand; “British Painting,” Space K, Seoul, South Korea; “Press Print!” Overgaden Institute of Contemporary Art, Copenhagen, Denmark; “Les couleurs naissent et meurent,” Galerie Pauline Pavec, Paris, France; “A Brief History of Abstraction,” Rønnebæksholm, Denmark; “L’Echappée Belle, Erin Lawlor/Bram van Velde,” Galerie Pauline Pavec, Paris, France; “Drei Künstlerinnen der Gegenwart,” Institut Française, Mainz, Germany; “Whitfield Street,” Rod Barton, London, United Kingdom; “Bête Noire/Candyman,” The Neutra Museum, Los Angeles; “David Achenbach Projects,” COFA Contemporary, Cologne, Germany; “A full open hand, drippings, and carefully masked lines,” Galleri Jacob Bjørn, Aarhus, Denmark; “Thru the rabbit hole,” Sideshow Nation, New York, NY; “White Album,” George Lawson Gallery, San Francisco, CA; “The seed of its opposite,” Kelvin College, Glasgow, United Kingdom; “Seven Painters,” Arcade Gallery, Cardiff, United Kingdom; “Peer Review,” Blyth Gallery, Imperial College, London, United Kingdom; “Erin Lawlor/James Geccelli,” Raumx Project Space, London, United Kingdom and “Making History,” Storefront Ten Eyck, Brooklyn, NY.

Her work is included in the collections of the New Hall Art Collection, Cambridge, United Kingdom; the Mark Art Rothko Centre, Daugavpils, Latvia and Space K, Seoul, South Korea.

Lawlor lives and works in London, United Kingdom.

Miles McEnery Gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM and by appointment.

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Image: *gimlette*, 2021, Oil on canvas, 70 7/8 x 47 1/4 inches, 180 x 120 cm

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