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PHILLIP ALLEN

8 FEBRUARY – 23 MARCH 2024
525 WEST 22ND STREET

Phillip Allen furthers his exploration of the color, volume, and materiality of paint with a new exhibition of large scale paintings at Miles McEnery Gallery. Recalling Abstract Expressionism, Cubism, and Action Painting, Allen ultimately transforms simple felt tip pen drawings into aesthetically, emotionally, and historically weighty oil on board compositions.

Allen encapsulates interior enigmatic patterns and forms with stucco-esque frames of oil paint, resulting in a frenetic energy and interruptive urgency to the work. While nothing is definite or clear about the compositions, Allen's unique visual touch requires a close gaze.

Allen describes his unique process: "I require some visual noise and 'surface' interference to bring the board into 'being.' This phase can take many weeks and sometimes years, as I overpaint old paintings. I like the phrase 'always already,' and even though I know this has specific philosophical connotations, for me it prompts the idea of never wanting to start anything but continually being in the middle of something."

PHILLIP ALLEN (b. 1967 in London, United Kingdom) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1990 from Kingston University, London and his Master of Fine Arts in 1992 from Royal College of Art, London.

Allen has been the subject of solo exhibitions at The Approach, London, United Kingdom; Bernier / Eliades Gallery, Athens, Greece; Dolph Projects, London, United Kingdom; Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland; Luca Tommasi Arte Contemporanea, Milan, Italy; Miles McEnery Gallery, New York, NY; MoMA PS1, Long Island City, NY, and elsewhere.

His work has been included in group exhibitions at the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead, United Kingdom; Camden Art Centre, London, United Kingdom; Centro Cultural Andratx, Mallorca, Spain; Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, United Kingdom; International Exhibition Centre, Nanjing, China; Royal Academy of Arts, London, United Kingdom; Tate Britain, London, United Kingdom; Total Museum of Contemporary Art, Seoul, Korea, and elsewhere.

Allen's work may be found in the collections of the Arts Council England, London, United Kingdom; British Council, London, United Kingdom; Government Art Collection, London, United Kingdom; and the Tate Collection, London, United Kingdom.

The artist lives and works in London, United Kingdom.

Image: *Low Memory (Redshift Nostalgia Version)*, 2023, Oil on panel, 40 x 32 1/2 x 3 inches, 101.6 x 82.6 x 7.6 cm
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