

LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

Jason Martin

55 Main Street
East Hampton, NY
November 19 – 29, 2020

For the latest exhibition in East Hampton, Lisson Gallery is pleased to present paintings by Jason Martin. The works on view — a classic oil on aluminum painting from 2006 and a recent silver cast work — continue Martin's career-long exploration into the boundless nature of painting.

For Jason Martin, paint is both the subject and the medium. In his work, he investigates the materiality of paint, its sculptural presence and its transformational nature. This approach, much like the minimalist work of Robert Ryman, plays on the possibilities of process through monochrome painting. In early works, pieces of metal or board were used like a comb to move paint evenly across the surface, seeking to achieve a balance of pigment and striation. The work on view, *Fell* (2006), bridges these early attempts to eliminate the artist's hand with a move towards a gentle touch and the introduction of the highly physical aspects of painting, referencing Abstract Expressionist masters such as Jackson Pollock or Willem de Kooning. Composed of range of dark scale pigments instead of true monochrome, the colors are exposed as the viewer moves around the painting, and one experiences the work as a sort of performance of the extraordinary dynamism of the colors at play.

In the cast work on view, from 2016, large swaths of modeller's paste are hand-sculpted, cast and then plated in silver. These exceptionally rendered works seem to memorialize the painterly gesture Martin brought in to his practice in more recent years. Like the oil paintings, they consider the relationship between painting and sculpture, with their hardened exterior creating a medium that appears both solid and impassable, but also reflective and deeply contemplative at the same time.

A solo exhibition of new paintings by Jason Martin will open at Lisson Gallery in Shanghai in 2021. His work is included in a group presentation at Lisson Gallery in London, opening December 8, and a new work, *Untitled (Dioxazine violet)* (2020), will be featured in the gallery's Online Viewing Room presentation for Art Basel Miami Beach from December 2–6, 2020.

Since its inauguration this summer, Lisson Gallery's 1,000 square foot East Hampton space has presented exhibitions focused on both seminal, historic artworks and premiered new bodies of work. Previous artists on view include Stanley Whitney, Carmen Herrera, Anish Kapoor, Van Hanos, Joanna Pousette-Dart, Sean Scully, Shirazeh Houshiary, Liu Xiaodong, Tony Oursler, Channa Horwitz and Hugh Hayden. This focused format, in an intimate setting, recalls the origins of Lisson Gallery, which was established in 1967 in a storefront window on London's Bell Street. The Long Island location of the new space joins Lisson's two other galleries in the New York area, including the recent expansion to a second location on West 24th Street in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood.

Lisson Gallery East Hampton will be open to the public over the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday weekend — Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28, from 11am to 5pm; and Sunday, November 29, from 11am to 4pm. The health and safety of visitors remains a top priority, and strict measures will be implemented in the space to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

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A mask will be required for entry, and hand sanitizer will be provided. Please visit our website for further details about the guidelines and to schedule an appointment.

About Jason Martin

Jason Martin channels a minimal approach to painting through an expansive yet controlled use of color, brush and medium. Working in pigment, acrylic, oil paint, graphite and cast metal, Martin interrogates the fundamentals of painting, veering from epic and luscious compositions of swirling forms (such as *Oceania*, 2006) to pared-down and muted abstractions in precisely blended tones. Structured according to the harmonic relationships between these hues (included in the titles, such as *Davy's Grey Deep/Graphite Grey/Titanium White*, 2017), the paintings manifest as parallel strata, their horizons exploring suggestions of landscape and atmosphere through the viscosity of oil or the granular texture of other material added to the paint. Albeit with the occasional intervention of chance, moments of happenstance and the unexpected whorl of chaos, this process of repeated, sweeping gestures has been honed over the years since Martin attended Goldsmiths College in London in the early 1990s. These early works saw Martin dragging skeins of oil or acrylic gel across hard surfaces such as aluminum, stainless steel or Plexiglas with a fine, comb-like tool.

Martin also does away with paint altogether in his wall-mounted casts of gold, rose gold and silver, whose surfaces are unctuous but frozen – fluctuating between sculpture and painting. In monochromatic, pure pigment works, vivid color is applied to molded panels, whose baroque contortions appear like extreme close-ups of a painter's ridged and furrowed palette. Uniting his practice is an attempt to further the language of abstraction through discrete and measured interventions, which both disrupt and activate the surfaces and spaces he inhabits.

Jason Martin was born in Jersey, in the Channel Islands, in 1970 and lives and works between London and Portugal. He has a BA from Goldsmiths, London (1993). Solo exhibitions include Thaddaeus Ropac, France (2018); Schauwerk Sindelfingen, Sindelfingen, Germany (2017); Museum gegenstandsfreier Kunst, Otterndorf, Germany (2016); Peggy Guggenheim Collection, Venice, Italy (2009); Es Baluard Museu d'Art Modern i Contemporàny de Palma, Majorca, Spain (2008); Kunstverein Kreis Gütersloh, Gütersloh, Germany (2007); and Centro de Arte Contemporáneo de Málaga, Spain (2005).

About Lisson Gallery

Lisson Gallery is one of the most influential and longest-running international contemporary art galleries in the world. Today the gallery supports and promotes the work of more than 60 international artists across two spaces in London, two in New York, one in Shanghai, as well as temporary spaces opened in 2020 in East Hampton and London's Mayfair district. Established in 1967 by Nicholas Logsdail, Lisson Gallery pioneered the early careers of important Minimal and Conceptual artists, such as Art & Language, Carl Andre, Daniel Buren, Donald Judd, John Latham, Sol LeWitt, Richard Long and Robert Ryman among many others. It still works with many of these artists as well as others of that generation from Carmen Herrera to the renowned estates of Leon Polk Smith, Ted Stamm and Roy Colmer. In its second decade the gallery introduced significant British sculptors to the public for the first time, including Tony Cragg, Richard Deacon, Anish Kapoor, Shirazeh Houshiary and Julian Opie. Since 2000, the gallery has gone on to represent many more leading international artists such as Marina Abramović, Ai Weiwei, John Akomfrah, Susan Hiller, Tatsuo Miyajima and Sean Scully. It is also responsible for raising the international profile of a younger generation of artists led by Cory Arcangel, Nathalie Djurberg & Hans Berg, Ryan Gander, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes and Wael Shawky.

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