

EOIN MC HUGH***Loje, jelo, laso***

25 October – 7 December

Opening reception: Thursday 24 October

Kerlin Gallery is pleased to present *Loje, jelo, laso*, an exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Eoin Mc Hugh. The exhibition opens on Thursday 24 October with a reception in the company of the artist.

Abstraction takes on a newfound importance in this body of work, as Mc Hugh seeks to explore new visual and verbal languages. Pure colour undulates and pulsates in a new series of oil paintings. Light dissolves line and forms coalesce without border. Research and source material are largely bypassed in favour of experimentation and direct expression through paint, colour and form. Nevertheless, the canvases are painstakingly crafted, owing more to the delicacy of Vermeer than to gestural abstraction. Small, glistening and pearlescent, the paintings come in and out of focus, teasing the eye as it searches for meaning.

The paintings are accompanied by over 100 notebook drawings made during and in response to therapy sessions. Developed, in the artist's words, "as a way to make sense of the world," the works are Mc Hugh's most autobiographical to date. Ranging from linear abstractions to meticulous but hallucinogenic articulations of form, the drawings are diaristic and exploratory in nature, but have been heavily layered and reworked over a period of years to create dense palimpsests of image, line and text. The series' title, *io*, means *light*, life in the invented language aUI, believed by its creator WJ Weilgart to give his patients access to unconscious feeling.

Linking these two bodies of work is an overreaching search for a new form of expression, testing the limits and implications of language, both verbal and visual. Like *io*, many of the works bear titles from invented languages. *Loje, jelo, laso*, means *red, yellow, blue* in Toki Pona, a philosophical language seeking to communicate by the simplest means possible – these are the language's only words for colour. Orzchis caldemia, meanwhile, uses the 12th-century German abbess Hildegard von Bingen's mystical Lingua Ignota. Such experiments with language, and the possibilities they open up, inform the probing, exploratory approach of the exhibition.

Eoin Mc Hugh, (B. Dublin, 1977) is based in Berlin. Recent solo shows include: Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, (2016 & 2013); TR1 Kunsthalle, Tampere, Finland, (2012); Centre d'art Contemporain, Chateau des Adhemar, Montelimar, (2008); Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin, (2006). Group exhibitions include: *2116: Forecast of the Next Century*, Eli & Edythe Broad Museum, Michigan, (2016); *Schnitt Schnitt*, Kunsthalle Darmstadt, Darmstadt, (2016); Glucksman Gallery, Cork, (2016); *Motivational Deficit...*, Crawford Art Gallery, Cork, (2014); *Warming to Rabelais, Like Things Frozen*, FRAC, Languedoc-Roussillon, Abbaye de Lagrasse, France, (2008); *Rendez-Vous*, in conjunction with the Lyon Biennale, (2007), travelling to Shanghai Art Museum, Shanghai, (2008); Temple Bar Gallery, Dublin; EV+A, Limerick, (both 2006) and The Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, (2005).

With thanks to The Arts Council of Ireland.

For images and more information, please contact Kerry McManus, kerry@kerlin.ie

EOIN MC HUGH

Loje, jelo, laso

25 October – 7 December

Clockwise from desk

1. *Loje, jelo, laso*, 2018-2019, watercolour, acrylic ink, coloured pencil on paper, 56 x 72.5 cm / 22 x 28.5 in paper size, 70.5 x 87 cm / 27.8 x 34.3 in framed
2. *aytor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 47 x 37 cm / 18.5 x 14.6 in
3. *awtor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 47 x 37 cm / 18.5 x 14.6 in
4. *itor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 37 x 47 cm / 14.6 x 18.5 in
5. *etor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 47 x 37 cm / 18.5 x 14.6 in
6. *utor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 37 x 47 cm / 14.6 x 18.5 in
7. *owtor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 47 x 37 cm / 18.5 x 14.6 in
8. *oytor*, 2019, oil on canvas, 47 x 37 cm / 18.5 x 14.6 in
9. *Orzchis caldemia*, 2018-2019, acrylic ink and watercolour on paper, 56 x 72.5 cm / 22 x 28.5 in paper size, 70.5 x 87 cm / 27.8 x 34.3 in framed
10. *io, pp. 1-6*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
11. *io, pp. 7-12*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
12. *io, pp. 13-18*, 2016-2019 pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
13. *io, pp. 19-24*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed

14. *io, pp. 25-30*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
15. *io, pp. 31-36*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
16. *io, pp. 37-42*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
17. *io, pp. 43-48*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed
18. *io, pp. 49-54*, 2016-2019, pigment ink on paper, six pages 15 x 20 cm / 5.9 x 7.9 in each, 54.7 x 49.7 x 2.5 cm / 21.5 x 19.6 x 1 in framed