

LISSON GALLERY

Press Release

Jason Martin Vortex

September 8 – November 3, 2022
504 West 24th Street, New York

For Jason Martin's twelfth solo exhibition with Lisson Gallery the artist embraces a new and vibrant palette to further expand on his unique painting language. Experimenting with different approaches to performance and gesture, Martin's finished surfaces entangle the relationship between painting and sculpture.

In Jason Martin's paintings paint is both the material and the motif. In his first exhibition in New York since 2018, the artist's monochromatic oil works explore their own materiality, sculptural presence and transmutative nature. Martin begins on these paintings with only the essentials – a small selection of colors in similar tones, a few brushes or tools and a number of square aluminum panels. What follows is a somatic process of paint application. Martin journeys across the surface, swirling and dragging thick layers of paint over the aluminum base. The measurements of the panels reflect Martin's reach, as he stretches to the edges and back towards the middle, laying swells of oil in thick impasto. The finished, hardened exteriors appear impenetrable yet introspective at the same time. Martin examines the medium and focuses on the internal drama of the painting. The works are an index of a fleeting moment; he paints once and does not return.

In 2018 Martin presented a series of paintings that engaged bands of color inspired by horizon lines. Referencing hard edge, monochromatic minimalism, the somber landscape works featured compositions of muted abstractions in hues of smokey off-white. He approaches the new works in the current exhibition with an energized spirit. The effervescent compositions of swirling, controlled chaos are presented in vivid colors that mirror the Portuguese countryside where Martin's studio is located. Sky, water and landscape all inform his palette.

The entrance to the gallery houses three rich, ethereal paintings that represent a playful departure from Martin's last presentation with the gallery. The buoyant colors – *Ultramarine violet*, *Viridian green light* and *Caribbean blue* – allow light to glow off of the surfaces, reflecting the dynamism and vigor of their making. These examinations into concordant connections between hues are furthered in the second room, where the paintings' subtitles reflect the color combination utilized, such as: *Scheveningen blue light*, *Payne's grey/Brilliant pink*, and *Viridian light/Scheveningen green deep*. Three works in the final room position Martin's gesture in deep hues, extending the intensity of the artist's surfaces.

About the artist

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 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

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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, three in New York, and one in Shanghai, as well as forthcoming galleries in Beijing and Los Angeles. 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 estate of Leon Polk Smith.

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, Ryan Gander, Van Hanos, Hugh Hayden, Haroon Mirza, Laure Prouvost, Pedro Reyes, Wael Shawky and Cheyney Thompson.

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