

ALMINE RECH

Andrea Marie

SWALLOWTAIL

May 2 - June 10, 2023



Andrea Marie Breiling, T80, 2023 - Spray paint on canvas - 121.9 x 304.8 cm, 48 x 120 in /
© Andrea Marie Breiling - Courtesy of the Artist and Almine Rech - Photo: Emanuel Arceo

Almine Rech New York is pleased to present *SWALLOWTAIL*, a solo exhibition by Andrea Marie Breiling. This is Breiling's third solo show with the gallery. The exhibition will be on view from May 2 to June 10, 2023 in Almine Rech's NYC gallery.

Andrea Marie Breiling's newest works draw inspiration from Swallowtail butterflies, known for their particularly wide wingspan, and for their vivid coloring which often combines intricate patterns of primary colors and white, outlined and bisected by blackish veins, and peppered with dark bluish-brown voids. Like a close-up view of Swallowtail wings, Breiling's recent spray paint paintings are at once atmospheric and kaleidoscopic while firmly grounded by a deeply-layered and rhythmic foundation. In a nod to Jackson Pollock's penchant for uncommonly narrow and wide canvases, many of Breiling's new works stretch the bounds of traditional landscape canvas proportions. This deliberate scale decision seems to have pushed her mark-making approach in a new direction.

In her 2022 solo show titled, "Ribbons," Breiling approached large portrait-oriented canvases with broad swooping curves of intertwining thick lines, resulting in a distinctive flowing ribboning effect. However, her recent shift to narrow landscape-orientation canvases has led Breiling to lay down repeated patterns of vibrant mark-making and achieves her signature ethereal layering effect with noticeably bolder, more precise, and substantially thinner line work. During a recent studio visit, the artist highlighted a particularly large piece that exemplifies this new approach. The impressive piece, almost three times as wide as it is high, has a darkly colorful and layered nearly-cosmic background which, from a distance, is almost entirely obfuscated by a wild and almost-symmetrical explosion of white and eggshell paint. However, as Breiling articulates, *"The closer you get to the work, the more the surface begins to reveal its details. It's the same experience I had when I first looked at a Swallowtail wing up close - what seemed like a mostly-white wing from afar was suddenly transformed into a maze of colorful layers and grid-like patterns of dark veins. I was amazed that the surface could appear lighter-than-air and magical from afar, but up close, that very same surface was an incredibly complex nanostructure made of iridescent scales and longitudinal ridges. I find the combination of complexity and sheer beauty found in Nature to be awe-inspiring and wondrous."* All in all, Breiling's new works seem to make a compelling case that paintings can elicit that same sense of wonder - the wonder found in the Swallowtail.

- Liam McCarthy, Graduate of Harvard University, 2002 Degree in Psychology

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