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## Guggi *Them*

19 January – 24 February 2024

Opening: Thursday 18 January, 6–8pm

**Kerlin Gallery is pleased to present *Them*, an exhibition of new paintings, sculptures and works on paper by Guggi.**

Across paintings on canvas and paper, Guggi builds up fields of intense colour layered with the bold, curving outlines of simple vessels and smudgy, broken crosses. In the exhibition's titular painting *Them*, two linear forms ascend on the left-hand side of the picture plane – abstract and totem-like motifs that represent the artist's late parents. Layered over four pencil-drawn bowls, a gossamer wash of white paint, and the coarse, jagged finish of the paper itself, the figures enter a dynamic but harmonious relationship with shape, line, gesture, and colour.

In new works of mixed media, Guggi's signature motifs of boldly simplified utilitarian objects appear on large-scale photographs documenting the home of his late father, Robbie. The house and its surroundings in Robertstown are a treasure trove of Robbie's life, filled with the vast array of objects he accumulated: among them dozens of cars,

motorbikes, bicycles, truck containers, a rusty van with his name on it, and the stock from his bicycle wholesale business. Guggi has extensively photographed this fascinating personal archive, capturing his father's passion for "anything on wheels" before layering the images with painted forms. The result is a poetic bricolage and a unique collaboration between father and son.

Over the past three decades, Guggi has achieved recognition for his drawing, painting and sculpture using the quotidian beauty of household objects to reflect on the human experience. Through his expressive use of shape, line, gesture, and colour, he imbues simplified everyday objects with great emotional resonance and feeling. Described by the artist as his most auto-biographical exhibition yet, *Them* sees the artist's established forms and techniques applied to a deeply personal subject matter – the recent loss of his parents – presenting us with an exhibition of diverse media and emotional range. Rich in poetic expression, the works in *Them* invite us to reflect on memory, the passing of time, familial bonds, and the objects that tell the stories of our lives.

### Media Contact

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