

## Glen Rubsamen

*Sorry, Wrong Number*

March 9 – May 2, 2026

Alfonso Artiaco is pleased to present the fifth solo exhibition by Glen Rubsamen at the gallery.  
The show will open on March 7 from 11:00 am, in presence of the artist.

This exhibition brings together a new group of paintings that investigate the visual and linguistic density of the contemporary city. Rubsamen treats the urban environment as a layered system of signs, where language, image, and architecture intersect. His work unfolds within the space between observation and interpretation, where distinctions between recording and critique begin to dissolve.

Central to the paintings is the presence of text. Words, numbers, and symbols emerge as primary elements, shaping the structure of the image rather than simply describing it. Drawn from everyday commercial contexts, these fragments are repositioned within carefully calibrated compositions. Meaning remains deliberately unstable, oscillating between direct legibility and open-ended suggestion.

Rubsamen adopts a restrained and attentive approach. His paintings avoid overt commentary, instead maintaining a measured distance that allows the complexity of the urban landscape to surface. This position encourages a slower form of looking, in which perception itself becomes the subject.

Many of the works engage with vernacular architecture, where signage and structure are inseparable. In these environments, language functions simultaneously as information and as image. By isolating and recombining these elements, Rubsamen reveals their formal clarity while also exposing their role within broader systems of communication.

Across the compositions, fragments of commercial language coexist with simplified architectural forms. Phone numbers, prices, abbreviations, and slogans occupy the same pictorial space as towers, billboards, and facades. The paintings mirror a condition in which lived experience and advertising are no longer distinct, but continuously overlap.

Within this framework, the works suggest a broader reflection on subjectivity in a consumer-driven culture. Systems of signage do not simply describe reality; they participate in shaping desire and identity. Rubsamen's images remain open, resisting closure and inviting multiple readings.

Formally, the paintings balance reduction and precision. Natural elements are flattened into gradients and silhouettes, while constructed forms retain a sharper definition. This contrast foregrounds the artificial order of the landscape and draws attention to the shifting relationship between figure and ground.

The title *Sorry, Wrong Number* borrows directly from the language of everyday communication, echoing the automated phrases and misdirected exchanges of consumer culture. At once familiar and disorienting, it signals a breakdown within systems designed for clarity and efficiency. In this sense, the title reflects a broader condition in which messages circulate endlessly, yet meaning remains uncertain.

# alfonsoartiacco

Rubsamen's paintings do not resolve these tensions. Instead, they propose a mode of attention that is patient, lucid, and critically aware. Painting becomes a space in which the visual logic of the contemporary city can be observed, questioned, and reconfigured.

Glen Rubsamen was born and raised in Los Angeles, CA. After nearly three decades living in New York and abroad, he returned to his hometown in 2013. He now divides his time between Los Angeles and Dusseldorf, Germany. He has exhibited at venues including the Staatliche Kunsthalle Baden-Baden, Germany; Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Strasbourg, France; Witte de With, Rotterdam, Netherlands; Los Angeles Contemporary Exhibitions (LACE), Los Angeles, CA; The Contemporary Jewish Museum, San Francisco, CA; Institute of Contemporary Arts (ICA), London, UK; Kunstverein Munich, Germany; and extensively in international galleries.