

The approach

Phillip Allen

Tonic for Choice

6th September - 5th October 2014

Preview: Friday 5th September, 6-9 pm

The Approach is pleased to present *Tonic for Choice*, an exhibition of large new abstract paintings by Phillip Allen. All equal in size and painted with oil on board, this newest body of work ploughs familiar painterly concerns present throughout earlier works, however, a revived energy and growing maturity has helped yield a new aesthetic crop. Gone is the reliable formula of thick impasto borders and deep, illusionary spaces often inhabited by Allen's painterly sculptural forms. Those devices have been replaced in favour of complex arrangements of shape and colour and a labyrinthine layering of marks, drips and scrapings evoking shifting surfaces and planes. Floating objects of varying stages of completion morph fluidly in and out of focus. Not afraid to excite viewers with visual decoration, *Tonic for Choice* is Allen's strongest presentation to date of work that sets out, through trial and error, to be pertinent abstract painting for paintings' sake.

Phillip Allen (b. 1967, London) lives and works in London. Selected solo exhibitions include 39 Mitchell Street, London and *Oxblood*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin (both 2013); *Capital P*, The Approach, London (2011); *Sloppy Cuts No Ice*, The Approach W1, London (2008); Milton Keynes Gallery, Milton Keynes (2006); *Phillip Allen: Recent Paintings*, P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center, Long Island City, New York (2003). Selected group exhibitions include: *Classified*, Tate Britain, London (2009); *Archipeinture: painters build architecture*, Le Plateau/Frac Île-de France, Paris, France; Camden Arts Centre, London (2006); *The British Art Show 6*, BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead; venues in Manchester, Nottingham, Bristol (2005).

For further information or images please contact Nora Heidorn at nora@theapproach.co.uk

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Tonic for Choice (Early Bird Version), 2014
Oil on board
72 x 72 in. (183 x 183 cm)

Tonic for Choice (Biennale Version), 2014
Oil on board
72 x 72 in. (183 x 183 cm)

Tonic for Choice (Digitat version), 2014
Oil on board
72 x 72 in. (183 x 183 cm)

Tonic for Choice (Good to Go Version), 2014
Oil on board
72 x 72 in. (183 x 183 cm)