

MARK FRANCIS

White Light

25th January – 2nd March 2019

Opening Reception: Thursday 24th

Kerlin Gallery is delighted to present *White Light*, an exhibition of new paintings by Mark Francis. The opening reception will take place on Thursday 24th of January in the company of the artist.

Francis' ongoing fascination with the 'mysteries of the universe' provides the point of departure for this most recent body of work by the London based artist. The invisible energy which powers all cosmic activity including our very own existence is given form and structure in these new paintings; delicate filaments become linked and intertwined, floating in darkly hued voids lit by the white light of glowing abstract forms. *'As a starting point, I visualise the universe being made up of a loosely structured grid where order and chaos can reside. As the work develops, this quickly gets lost or moves aside in the painting process. I like to visualise the paintings as the photographic moment capturing the birth and death of invisible energy.'*

Over the past thirty years, Francis has made paintings of this singular optical intensity – powerful, apparently abstract combinations of concentrated patterning and stark colour contrasts that are in fact principally based on what the unaided human eye lacks the power to see. His work draws significantly on discoveries about the form and substance of reality that result from technologically enhanced vision. An enduring fascination, for instance, has been the visual worlds made accessible by the matter-penetrating gaze of electron microscopes: the dark, scattered, interconnecting orbs or the variously taut and slack lines of his painting have drawn their strange forms from imagery of the miniature universe, the realm of molecular structure and cellular association out of which all life is assembled. More recently, too, Francis' art has looked outwards, taking as points of pictorial reference the graphic interpretations of data received by radio telescopes as part of astronomers' efforts to chart distant zones of the cosmos. Such scientific advances in the power of perception have for Francis come to present vital challenges – and opportunities – for the practice of painting.

Mark Francis (b. 1962, Newtownards, Northern Ireland) recent exhibitions include *Spectra*, Luca Tommasi Arte Contemporanea, Milan (12 December – 26 January); *There is Geometry in the Humming of the Strings ...*, Peninsula Arts Gallery, Plymouth University; *The Evidence of Absence*, Galería Pelaires, Palma (both 2016); Dirimart, Istanbul (2014); Arena, Abbot Hall Gallery, UK (2010) and *Pulse*, Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane (2008). Collections include the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin; TATE, London; Victoria & Albert Museum, London; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; de Young Memorial Museum, San Francisco; Museum of Modern Art, Miami; The Saint Louis Art Museum, St. Louis, Missouri and Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane.

For more information, please contact Elly Collins, elly@kerlin.ie.

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Gallery

1. Mark Francis, *White Light Vertical Configuration DP (Dioxazine Purple)*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 214 x 153 cm / 84.3 x 60.2 in
2. Mark Francis, *White Light (Spatial Dimension BS + CB)*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 214 x 183 cm / 84.3 x 72 in
3. Mark Francis, *White Light (Spatial Dimension CRD)*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 214 x 153 cm / 84.3 x 60.2 in
4. Mark Francis, *White Light (Dual Dimension)*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 214 x 183 cm / 84.3 x 72 in
5. Mark Francis, *White Light Space Time*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 214 x 153 cm / 84.3 x 60.2 in
6. Mark Francis, *Lumen*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 153 x 122 cm / 60.2 x 48 in
7. Mark Francis, *Auric Field*, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 153 x 122 cm / 60.2 x 48 in

Downstairs Office

Clockwise from window:

8. Mark Francis, *Vertical Configuration (CB + MB)*, 2018, acrylic and oil on paper, 132 x 95.5 cm / 52 x 37.6 in paper size, 144.5 x 107.5 cm / 56.9 x 42.3 in framed
9. Mark Francis, *Vertical Configuration (Hookers Green)*, 2018, acrylic and oil on paper, 132 x 95.5 cm / 52 x 37.6 in paper size, 144.5 x 107.5 cm / 56.9 x 42.3 in framed
10. Mark Francis, *Vertical Configuration (PB + Black)*, 2018, acrylic and oil on paper, 132 x 95.5 cm / 52 x 37.6 in paper size, 144.5 x 107.5 cm / 56.9 x 42.3 in framed