

KELTIE FERRIS: FEEEEELING

April 16 – May 29, 2021

534 West 26th Street, New York



NEW YORK, April 1, 2021 – Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to announce its fifth solo presentation of work by **Keltie Ferris**. *FEEEEEELING* features a dozen new large-scale paintings and a site-responsive wall drawing, a first for the artist. The exhibition will be on view from April 16 through May 29th, and an opening reception will be held on **Saturday, April 17th from 1 to 4 pm.**

Over the past fifteen years, **Ferris** has developed his exuberant and complex approach to abstract painting using a variety of methods including spray gun, dry pigment and hand-painted fields

The new paintings in *FEEEEEELING* belong to a few distinct stylistic groups, each an evolution from Ferris's previous work.

Four paintings in the exhibition are tightly-worked, grisaille compositions. Rhythmic, gestural marks whirl from edge-to-edge, punctuated by linear smudges and erasures. The overall effect is that of a vibrating body of water contained by brightly colored wood frames. Expanding a practice that began with his works on paper, these paintings brim with contradiction – meditative and anxious, monochrome and kaleidoscopic, visually expanding and contracting.

A second group of works feature Ferris's signature layered surfaces in which various geometric forms are overlaid and interlocked, creating a shifting, multiplanar depth. In earlier works, Ferris has used a stenciled grid in small sections of the overall composition. In these four new paintings, the stenciled grid overtakes the majority of the picture plane. The crisp, even spacing of the squares calls to mind Pointillism or Ben-day dots used to create the effects of shading and contour. The pixel-like perfection of the grid stands in contrast to the curvilinear spray-painted lines on the surface.

In a third group of paintings, Ferris further removes his hand from the mark-making process. He begins by covering a scrap of canvas in a single color, pressing the canvas covered in wet paint face-to-face with a second stretched canvas. He repeats this action multiple times, building up a richly textured multicolor ground seemingly caught in the act of disintegrating. Gestural spray-painted lines gently hover over this backdrop.

Critics have often noted Ferris's capacity for synthesizing contradictory visual references: landscapes and streetscapes, the digital and the handmade, stasis and flux, depth and surface. The works in *FEEEEEELING* mark the furthest exploration thus far of Ferris's diverse visual vocabulary.

About Keltie Ferris

Keltie Ferris was born in 1977 in Louisville, Kentucky and currently lives and works between Brooklyn, NY and Woodstock, NY. He received his BFA from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2006. Recent solo exhibitions include **O*P*E*N** at the Speed Museum, Louisville, KY (2018), *(F(U(T)U)R)E* at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2018), *M\A\R\C\H* at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2017), *Body Prints and Paintings* at the University Art Museum at SUNY Albany, New York (2016); *Paintings and Body Prints* at Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York (2015); *Keltie Ferris: Domsday Boogie* at the Santa Monica Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2014); *Body Prints* at Chapter NY, New York (2014); and *Man Eaters* at the Kemper Museum, Kansas City (2009-10).

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day. Lucy Mitchell-Innes is also a member of the selection committee of Art Basel and a former president of the Art Dealers Association of America. Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Jay DeFeo, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, Eddie Martinez, Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

Caption: KELTIE FERRIS, FEELINGS, 2020-2021, oil and watercolor on canvas in the artist's frame, Canvas: 80 by 60 in. 203.2 by 152.4 cm., Framed: 83 by 63 in. 210.8 by 160 cm. © Keltie Ferris. Courtesy of the artist and Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York.

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