

KELTIE FERRIS: M\A\R\C\H

March 29 – May 6, 2017

1018 Madison Avenue, New York

Opening Reception: Wednesday, March 29 from 5 to 7 pm



Mitchell-Innes & Nash is pleased to announce *M\A\R\C\H*, an exhibition of Keltie Ferris' ongoing series of body prints at our Madison Avenue gallery. *M\A\R\C\H* is Ferris' third solo show with Mitchell-Innes & Nash.

Ferris began the body print series during a residency in 2013. Contrary to the spray-painted abstract canvases for which she is known, the body prints offer an avenue for Ferris to inject herself physically into her work, both as a form of self-portraiture and as an alternate means of mark-making. The artist coats her body, nude or clothed, with oil and presses herself against paper on the floor of her studio. She then covers the impression with powdered pigment. The result is a photographic yet fragmented impression, recalling an X-ray or Xerox copy.

With these new works, Ferris continues to explore painting as a personal index and the literal relationship between the artist and his or her work. Although

initially one might point to Yves Klein, in process Ferris' body prints are more closely indebted to David Hammons and Jasper Johns. Unlike her predecessors, however, Ferris' body prints reject an easy gendered identification of the body, suggesting a fluid and performative state of gender identity. Ferris highlights the physicality of the process, subtly shifting the position of her body to create impressions that range in tone from static to fluid, defensive to aggressive, and masculine to feminine. The viewer senses the artist's hand and, in turn, the objecthood of the prints.

Similar to her atmospheric layered paintings, the body prints also display a powerful perceptual depth. The imprints float in hazy compositions that suggest the shadow or memory of the artist, literally and figuratively. As no two prints are exactly the same, each work represents a multitude of forms. Displayed together, the impressions present individual facets of the artist's identity, both autonomous and dependent. The artist calls into question the notion of seriality and the existence of a true carbon copy.

About Keltie Ferris

Keltie Ferris is known for her mostly large-scale canvases covered with layers of spray paint and hand-painted geometric fields. Characterized by a continuously expanding investigation into painting, her practice considers a multi-planar site for constructed light and shifting space. In her ongoing series of body prints, Ferris uses her own body like a brush, covering it with natural oils and pigments and pressing it against a canvas, to literalize the relationship of an artist's identity to the work that he or she produces.

Keltie Ferris was born in Kentucky in 1977 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated with a 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 *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: Doomsday 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). Her works have been included in group exhibitions at institutions, including Saatchi Gallery, London (2014); Contemporary Arts Museum of Houston, Texas (2014);

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The Academy of Arts and Letters, New York (2014); Brooklyn Museum, New York (2012); the Indianapolis Museum of Contemporary Art, Indianapolis (2010); and The Kitchen, New York (2009). She was recently awarded the Rosenthal Family Foundation Award in Painting by the Academy of Arts and Letters.

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, 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.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program, in both their Madison Avenue and Chelsea locations, 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, William 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, to be titled, 2017, Oil and powdered pigment on paper, 40 by 26 in. 101.6 by 66 cm.

Listings Information:

Mitchell-Innes & Nash is located at 534 West 26th Street in Chelsea and 1018 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side.

Tel: 212 744 7400. | Web: www.miandn.com | Email: josie@miandn.com

Press inquires:

Taylor Maatman | FITZ & CO | Tel: 646-589-0926 | Email: tmaatman@fitzandco.com

Yun Lee | FITZ & CO | Tel: 646-589-0920 | Email: ylee@fitzandco.com