

## MAUREEN PALEY.



## MERLIN JAMES

**14 November 2024 – 11 January 2025**  
**at Maureen Paley and Studio M**

**opening Thursday 14 November:**

**Maureen Paley - 5.30 – 7.30 pm**

**London E2 6GQ**

**Studio M - 11 am – 7.30 pm (open all day)**

**London E2 7FA**

Maureen Paley is pleased to represent Merlin James and to announce his first solo exhibition at the gallery and Studio M.

His practice, which includes curating and art-critical writing as well as painting, has developed a deep aesthetic understanding over some four decades. This show will combine recently finished paintings with ones selected from his studio inventory in Glasgow, the earliest dating to 1982.

*'I am actually working with temporality. I'm using the way work gets old, or changes over time, physically and in terms of its readings. I'm interested in how paintings time travel.'*<sup>1</sup>

The exhibition will include paintings of the Arnold Circus bandstand, an east London landmark visible from the Studio M window. He first painted and drew the bandstand in the mid 1980s when he had a studio nearby on Redchurch Street, and he has recently returned to the motif. It is one of a range of such architectural structures — including bridges, piers, toll booths, windmills — which have recurred throughout his work:

*'I'm painting about grouping and division... about boundaries and enclosures, boxes and compartments.'*<sup>2</sup>

Merlin James (b. 1960, Cardiff, Wales) is a painter living and working in Glasgow, Scotland. Selected solo exhibitions include: *Some Steps*, Kunstsaele, Berlin, Germany (2023); *Long Game*, CCA, Glasgow, UK (2016); *Signal Box*, Kunst-Werke Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany (2013); *Parasol Unit*, London, UK (2013); *Wales Pavilion*, 52nd International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy (2007); *Easel Paintings*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, UK (2004); *Kettle's Yard*, Cambridge, UK (1996).

Selected group exhibitions include: *Healing*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York, (2024); *Mixing It Up*, Hayward Gallery, London, UK (2021); *Merlin James / David Schutter; After Poussin / After Ruisdael*, A-M-G5, Glasgow, UK (2019); *Slow Painting*, Leeds City Art Gallery, Leeds, UK (2019); *La Vita Materiale*, The Goma, Madrid, Spain (2017); *Towards Night*, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, UK (2016); *SS Blue Jacket*, KARST, Plymouth, UK (2013); *Things We Lost in the Fire*, Leicester City Art Gallery, UK (2007); *The Edge of the Real*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (2004); *Yes! I am a long way from home*, Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield, UK (2003); *East End Academy*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK (1996).

His work is included in collections of the Arts Council England, UK; Brooklyn Museum, USA; Dallas Museum of Art, USA; Musée d'Art Moderne de Paris, France; National Museum of Wales, UK; HUA Art Museum, Shenzhen, China; San Antonio Art Museum, US A; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, USA; Tate, London, UK.

<sup>1&2</sup> Merlin James: *Signal Box*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, 2013

image: Merlin James, *The Bandstand*, 2024, mixed materials, 136 x 166 x 8.5 cm - 53 1/2 x 65 3/8 x 3 3/8 in. Photo: Ruth Clark