

LUNGLEY

William Mackrell

Strip

28/09/2023 - 11/11/2023



After the Nightmare (2023)

Left to right 22 cm x 19 cm, 27 cm x 19 cm
Etching on c-type print, mounted on aluminium

LUNGLEY Gallery is pleased to present *Strip*, a solo exhibition by William Mackrell. A catalogue has been published to accompany the exhibition and includes texts by Maria Hohmann, Thomas McMullan and David Thomas.

For his second solo exhibition at the gallery Mackrell continues his engagement with performance taking a direct physical approach to the surface of his photographs. Hairy body parts are magnified and cropped before using an etching needle to meticulously scratch out each individual hair from the surface of the paper.

Never disclosing the identity of the model their face remains out of sight in his images, choosing to represent a universal body instead of a particular identity. The way he contorts the body results in an

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abstract form emphasizing line and curve that evoke the contours of a natural landscape and the large scale to which it is magnified reinforces this effect.

The resulting works are an intimate yet impersonal way to deal with issues of objectivity around their own body and convey a certain futility and frustration in the effort toward intimacy, reminiscent of the self-consciousness felt when standing next to someone on a crowded train.

In a new series of paintings Mackrell adopts the artichoke as a metaphor for life and death. Gathering up and scattering the remains of the vegetable over sheets of paper, the buds are then buried under a blanket of metallic paint applied from above, fate decides the form contradicting the actions of the artist.

Lifting the paper the buds fall to the floor revealing the residue of their existence. The resulting work appears to move in and out of focus, shifting from light to dark the work offers a sense of infinite depth suggesting a dreamscape or astrological backdrop. Our eyes move across the surface of the paper in search of clues but the work ultimately refuses any true resolution.

BIOGRAPHY

(b. 1983, London, UK) lives and works in London.

Recent solo exhibitions include LISTE Basel LUNGLEY Gallery (2022), *A painter in the house of letters* Musée Delacroix Paris (2021), *Do not go gentle into that good night* RYDER Madrid (2020), *Rage rage against the dying of the light* LUNGLEY Gallery London (2020), *Here is where we meet* Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna (2019), Proyectos ARTBO (2019) Bogota curated by Aaron Cezar.

Selected Museum and Institutional exhibitions include *Bodyscapes* Israel Museum, Jerusalem (2020), *Let there be light* Justin Art House Museum, Melbourne (2019), *Aquarius*, Pre-Raphaelite Rooms, Manchester Art Gallery, UK (2018), *Drawing: the Beginning of Everything* Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo (2017), *Infinite Jest* Dundee Contemporary Arts, UK (2012). Mackrell was awarded the Manchester Contemporary Art Fund (2017) and recently supported by Fluxus Art Projects (2021) for his exhibition at Musée Delacroix. Residencies include LaunchPad, France (2019) & Krinzinger Projekte, Vienna (2017).

Public collections include Albright-Knox Art Gallery Buffalo, Contemporary Art Society, London, Israel Museum Jerusalem, Manchester Art Gallery UK, Goldsmiths Alumni Collection UK, Krinzinger Collection Vienna and Justin Art House Museum Melbourne.

William graduated from the MFA Fine Art programme at Goldsmiths (2016) and BA Painting at Chelsea College of Art, London (2005).

For further information please contact the gallery at mark@lungleygallery.com

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