

LUNGLEY

Rian Coughlan

WOW (NOW 2025)

18/01 - 15/02/2025



Rain 1 (2024)

Oil, oil bar and oil pastel on linen, 85 cm x 105 cm

'WOW (Now 2025)' is an exhibition of recent paintings by Rian Coughlan and follows on from 'WOW', previously shown at Asylum Studios in 2023. Using formal pictorial construction, text and nods to figuration these paintings offer a cypher for coding the essential building blocks of their own making. Information is taken for disparate arenas such as the artist's own drawings and maquettes, found images, music and literature and pop culture idioms. The paintings are durational in nature and internally process led, defining the terms of their own making, thus the process and the image that results are reciprocal.

Marked by a sense of physicality in paint, as well as a striking fusion of addition and subtraction, Coughlan's densely layered canvasses underlines the artist's fascination with the evolution of painting. His work is created by overlaying image and paint, each unique layer representing a distinct history in terms of content, form and materiality, resulting in a gestural surface burnished with shimmering strata of thick pigment that resemble smooth slabs, their facture near tangible to the viewer. The surfaces of the works trigger chromatic vibrations and optical illusions. Multiple perspectives and after-images emerge and recede with tributaries feeding and looping back into one another, giving rise to a new and complex visual lexicon, rooted in the canon of abstract painting.

Coughlan's recent work reveals a distinct engagement with composition, agency and intention, confronting abstract expressionistic tropes with the use of different effects, procedures and materials. The layering of pigment in the paintings complicates the distinction between areas of colour and line, generating a sense of uncertainty to the identity of each.

Rian Coughlan (b. 1981, Cork, Ireland) lives and works in London. Coughlan graduated from the Royal Academy Schools, London (2013-16).

Recent exhibitions include: 'WOW', (solo), Asylum Studios, Suffolk (2023) daysaideadhead (solo), Lungley Gallery, London, (2019); STRIPES, SHAPES AND POSSIBLY SNAKES (solo), Chalton Gallery, London, (2019); Night Out, Chalton Gallery, London, (2018); Royal Academy Degree Show, RA Schools, London, (2016); A Union of Voices, Horatio Jr, London, (2015); Forced Exposure, The Black Mariah, Cork, Ireland, (2013); Perp (solo), The Black Mariah, Cork, Ireland, (2013); Difficult Walking (solo), The Black Mariah, Cork, Ireland, (2011) Salon 2011, Broadstone Studios in collaboration with The Black Mariah, Dublin, (2011).

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