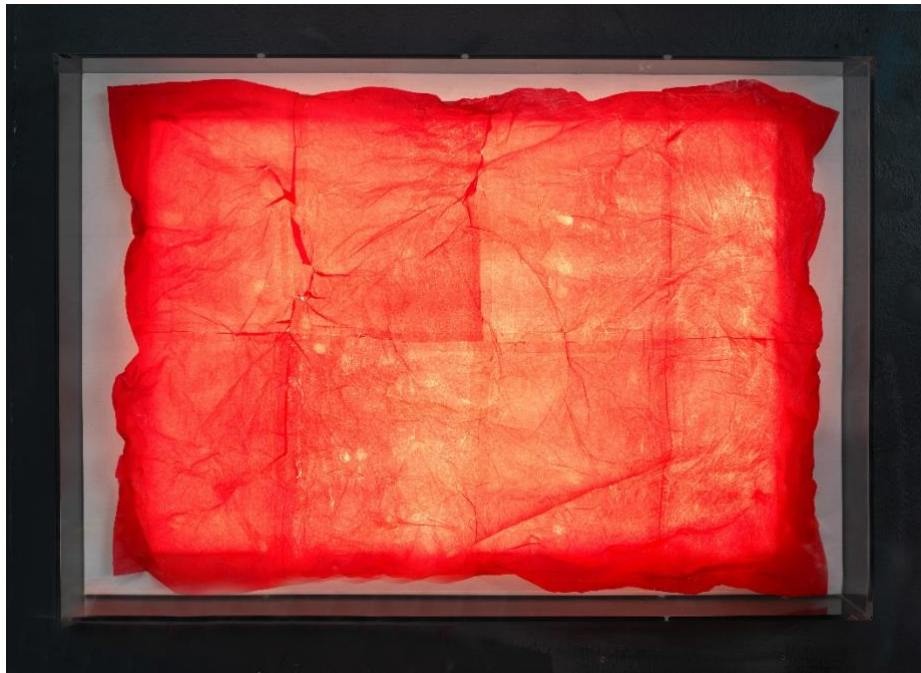


LUNGLEY

William Mackrell

Exposed Tender

22/05 - 28/06/2025
Private view 21/05/2025, 6-8pm



Sleep RED 2025
Carbon paper, acrylic case, LED lights
81.5 x 56 x 8 cm

LUNGLEY is pleased to present *Exposed Tender*, a new exhibition by William Mackrell, his third solo exhibition with the gallery. This deeply personal body of work offers an intimate portrait of the artist's psyche, created in the wake of familial loss and during a period of mourning and recovery.

Throughout the exhibition, the colour red acts as a connective thread—linking the works visually and thematically as a symbol of intimacy, emotion, memory, and corporeality. The works span performance-based painting, print, and installation, reflecting Mackrell's ongoing exploration of the space between speech and silence, body and trace. Red lipstick becomes both a tool and a medium, replacing the brush as Mackrell presses his lips directly onto paper and other surfaces. These imprints—simultaneously tender and assertive—evoke a sense of physical immediacy, gesture, and emotional residue. They are at once self-portraits and speech acts, blurring the line between verbal expression and visual form.

Among the central works in the show are two "*sleep pieces*": installations featuring a mattress and pillow—Mackrell's own childhood mattress, later used by his father—covered in red carbon paper. The artist has slept upon them, and the resulting impressions, scratches, and folds act as indexes of rest and residue. Here, sleep is not a passive state, but an active one—a site of unconscious labour. The carbon paper functions as both medium and metaphor, referencing duplication, receipt, and record-keeping: the body as a ledger of time spent, of intimacy shared, of lineage remembered. The work becomes a quiet yet potent conversation between father and son, absence and presence. In *Pulling Up* (2025), red lip marks expand from the sides of the paper in a symmetrical cascade, recalling a crescendo or exhalation of breath as the marks disappear at the top of the frame. This gesture of opening speaks to revelation, vulnerability, and the performative nature of emotion. Other works such as *Recliner Splurt* (2025) channel raw bodily sensation—what the artist describes as “a reddening of the skin, a flush of nervousness, a spilling out - waves of feeling that are pure impulse.” *Divine Loop* (2025), meanwhile, spirals in repeated gestures—circling around memory, looping through what cannot be undone. These are bodily works in every sense: intimate, physical, emotive. They act as visual diaries—documents of feeling as much as of form.

Also included are five small lip studies (2024-25) —titled *Exposed tender* (working drawing), *Divine* (working drawing), *Slide, Release - Back of My Mouth*, and *Memory Fade*—that act as companion pieces to the larger works. Each marks a moment of introspection, a micro expression of emotional register. *Exposed Tender* extends Mackrell's recent explorations at the Lapidarium Museum in Croatia, where he created site-specific performance paintings by smearing lipstick across the interior glass walls of the museum. These "speech marks" emerged as gestures beyond language, tracing where the spoken and written word fall short and the body takes over. This work, described by the artist as "a constellation of physical expression," reflects his growing interest in the materiality of voice and its translation into gesture and trace. In parallel to his show with LUNGLEY, William Mackrell's *Exposed Tender* (2024) recently acquired by the Muzej-Museo Lapidarium, will feature in their upcoming group exhibition Museum as Muse 18 May – 26 June.

Breaking a dance 2025 will be part of the Whitechapel Gallery's London Open Live from 3 June - 7 September. Performances for *Breaking a dance* will take place on 28 August 6-8pm.

William Mackrell (b.1983, London).

His work has been exhibited internationally including solo exhibitions at Musée National Eugène-Delacroix Paris (2021), Liste Basel (2022), ArtBo Bogota (2019), Arco Madrid (2018), Lungley London (2023), The Ryder Madrid (2021) and Galerie Krinzinger Vienna (2019).

Public gallery exhibitions include Whitechapel Gallery, London (2025), Manchester Art Gallery (2025), Muzej-Museo Lapidarium Museum Croatia (2025), Buffalo AKG Art Museum USA (2017) and Dundee Contemporary Arts UK (2012). Residencies and awards include, Krinzinger Vienna (2023 & 2017), LaunchPad France (2019), Fluxus Art Projects (2021), Manchester Contemporary Art Fund (2017) and Arts Council England (2014). Public collections include Manchester Art Gallery, Buffalo AKG Art Museum USA, Lapidarium Museum Croatia and Goldsmiths Alumni Collection.

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

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