

Hoffman Donahue

Marlon Mullen
September 26 – October 28, 2026
Beverly Hills

Hoffman Donahue is pleased to present *Marlon Mullen*. Comprising new and previously unseen paintings, this solo exhibition is the artist's first in Los Angeles, and his first since the survey exhibition *Projects: Marlon Mullen* at the Museum of Modern Art in New York (2024–2025). Developing over the past four decades, Mullen's singular practice pulls from the pages of magazines, exhibition announcements, auction catalogues, and books, transforming the familiar visual language of the art world into paintings that hover between recognition and abstraction.

Mullen paints in acrylic on canvas laid flat on his studio table at NIAD (Nurturing Independence through Artistic Development) Art Center, a progressive arts organization in Richmond, CA for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, where Mullen has worked since 1986. Frequently borrowing from the on-site library, he treats his appropriated subjects less as pictures to reproduce and more as material to reorganize. In Mullen's hands, words, barcodes, logos, and blocks of color may be enlarged, cropped, repeated, or omitted altogether. What began as an *Artforum* magazine cover, advertisement, or work by another artist gradually breaks apart into an entirely new system of shape, color, rhythm, and texture.

While this exhibition follows a period of increasing institutional recognition for Mullen, his striking oeuvre nonetheless resists easy categorization or summary as it continually shifts between information and image, legibility and obscurity, reference and invention.

Marlon Mullen (b. 1963, Richmond, CA) has exhibited widely both in the US and abroad, including solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art, New York (2024–25), JTT, New York (2023, 2019, 2017, 2015), Massimo De Carlo, Hong Kong (2021), Adams and Ollman, Portland, OR (2020, 2016), NIAD Art Center, Richmond, CA (2017), Jack Fischer Gallery, San Francisco (2016), Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta (2015), and White Columns (2012). His work has been included in institutional group exhibitions such as the 2019 Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA (2018), The Studio Museum in Harlem (2014), and the RISD Museum, Providence, RI, among many others.

Mullen was a recipient of the Wynn Newhouse Award in 2015 and elected to the National Academy of Design in 2025. His work resides in the public collections of the Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY; Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, Berkeley, CA; Hessel Museum at Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY; Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore; Columbus Museum, Columbus, GA; High Museum of Art, Atlanta; ICA Miami, Miami; Portland Art Museum, Portland, OR; RISD Museum, Providence, RI; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, San Francisco; Studio Museum in Harlem, New York, and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York.