

EN

WIELS

ELLEN
GALLAGHER
& EDGAR
CLEIJNE

LIQUID
INTELLIGENCE

02.02

28.04

GALLAGHER WORKS THROUGH POPULAR NARRATIVES AND MYTHOLOGIES OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORIES WHILE ALSO CHALLENGES PARADIGMS OF MODERNIST PAINTING

Ellen Gallagher is one of today's most prominent artists. She was born in port city of Providence, Rhode Island, USA, in 1965, and works and lives between Rotterdam and New York since 2003.

This exhibition is a first survey in the Lowlands of Gallagher's painterly production in some twenty works, shown together with two of the collaborative film installations made together with Edgar Cleijne. As such, it is a unique moment for the WIELS audiences to discover a practice which is cherished and discussed in the framework of decolonial and Anthropocene debates worldwide. Gallagher works through popular narratives and mythologies of African American histories while also challenges paradigms of modernist painting, such as objecthood, frontality or transparency. She opens them up with techniques of fragmentation, carving and layering which introduce means of perception that address opacity, embodying, memorizing and the fluid interchangeability of materials and beings.

The exhibition's title *Liquid Intelligence* is borrowed from an essay by conceptual artist Jeff Wall. It alludes to the chemical, transformative process of analogue photography, the quasi-controlled process of the darkroom, involving liquids and washing, in opposition to notions of transparency and proof associated with modernist documentary photography. The intelligence of liquid environments and aquatic, marine transformations touch upon the aesthetic of much of Gallagher's work: the biomorphic obscured worlds of the submarine and bio-molecular traces of millennial histories. The film installations by Gallagher & Cleijne capture the disruptions of the technology and engineering that the Anthropocene imposes on the planet.

Check the 😊 if you visit the exhibition with kids