

HALSEY MCKAY GALLERY

MATT RICH - *and and and*

November 6 - January 1 | 79 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY

For all further information please contact info@halseymckay.com



Matt Rich, *Backwards Blue Ampersand*, 2021, Acrylic on canvas, 24 x 33 inches (61 x 83.8 cm)

and and and, Matt Rich's third solo show with Halsey McKay continues his ongoing play with the ideas of supports and surfaces, objecthood and observation, flatness and relief, abstraction and recognizability. Taking the stretcher bar out of the equation and out of his practice, Rich's cut canvas pieces continue to form a body of work that is surprisingly intentional and precise. He has referred to his practice as having a "flawed clarity."

Rich's not-quite flat paintings unsettle, revel in and trample surfaces—their own as well as the gallery's hard walls. Rich endows his paintings with an array of techniques that complicate their experience and presentation. Slicing, rippling, looping and wrinkling his works, Rich creates "surplus surfaces"—which cast undulating shadows under the lights of the gallery, part of an extending network of spatial, material engagements. Exploring the use of materials as foils to the traditional painting process, Rich's paintings free the weight and flow of color and the tautness of forms into our surroundings.

While his main language and approach remains that of color-based abstraction using basic geometric shapes, several of Rich's paintings venture out to incorporate the recognizable figure of the ampersand. Rooted down in a more familiar form, the works nevertheless seem to reach out to something beyond. Rich's sinuous rendering of the ampersand and its "and" meaning suggest an extension to somewhere.

Matt Rich (b. 1976) is a painter who received a MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, a BA from Brown University and attended the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture. Recent solo exhibitions include J A Zed Zed at Devening Projects and Editions, Chicago; Victoria Fu and Matt Rich: Monster A. at Orange County Museum of Art, Costa Mesa, Calif. and Versify at Halsey McKay Gallery/56HENRY, New York. Rich's work has been featured in exhibitions in venues such as the Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; Project Row Houses, Houston; Samson Projects, Boston; Zevitas/Marcus, Los Angeles; galerie oqbo, Berlin and BravinLee Programs, New York. His works are in the permanent collections of List Visual Arts Center at MIT, Cambridge, Mass.; Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, Kansas City, Mo.; Dana Farber Cancer Institute Art Collection, Boston and Northeastern University, Boston. His work has been written about in publications including Modern Painters, Artforum, Art Papers and The Boston Globe, among others. He lives and works in San Diego.