

SPIRITUAL
DECAY

Adams and Ollman

Todd Norsten: *An Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*

May 20–June 17, 2023

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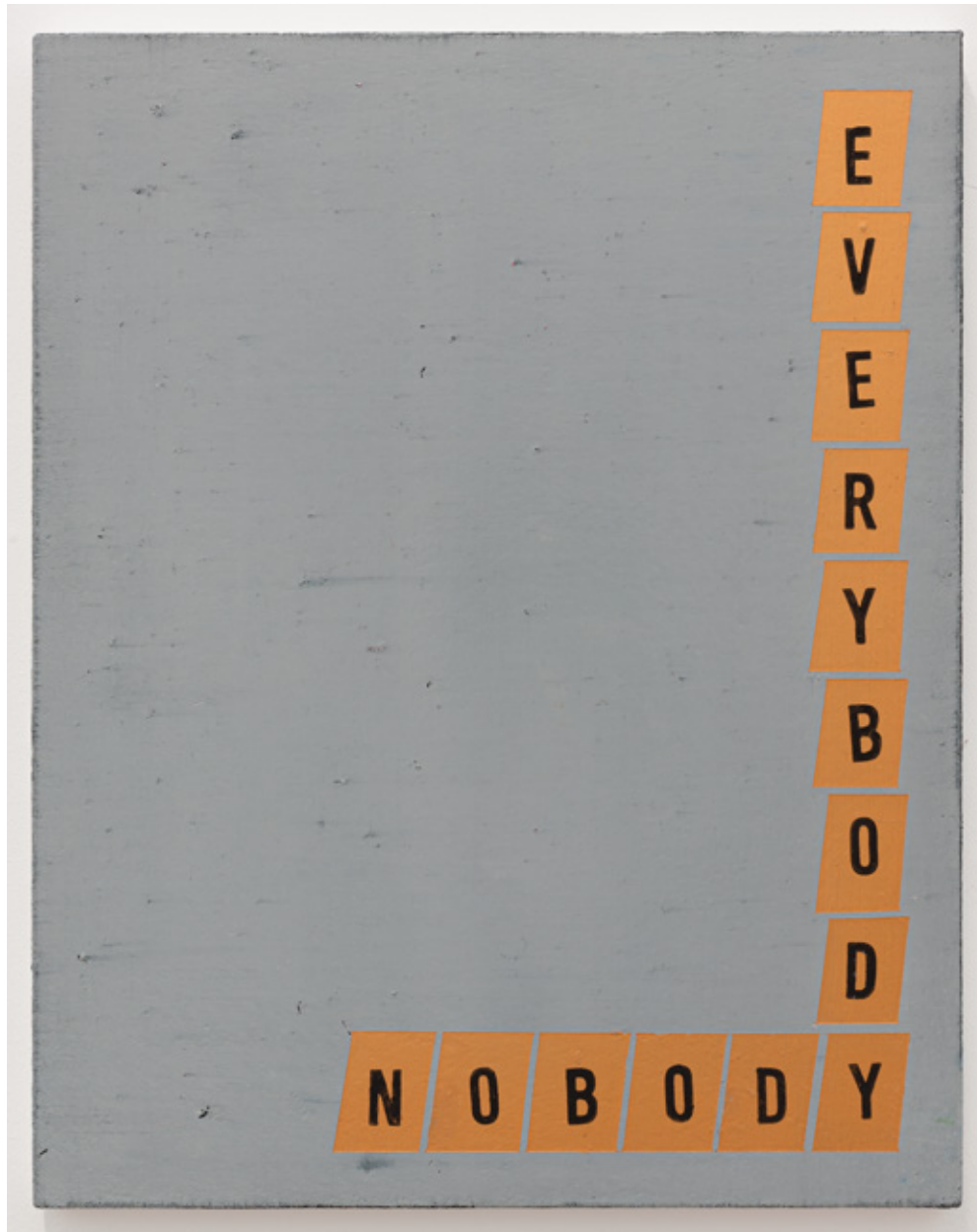
Adams and Ollman is pleased to present *An Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, a solo exhibition with new paintings by Todd Norsten (b. 1967, Minneapolis, MN where he continues to live and work). The exhibition, the artist's third with the gallery, opens on May 20 and is on view through June 17, 2023.

Norsten transforms images and observations from his daily life and travels into painted meditations on the universal impulse to make a mark. Riffing on a throughline the artist has identified from ancient petroglyphs, to lovers' initials carved into trees, to bathroom graffiti, Norsten absorbs visual culture all around us—roadside billboards, peeling paint on the side of a barn, hand-painted "Keep Out" signs, lottery advertisements—then translates and transforms these snippets and non sequiturs into sometimes earnest, often satirical works that give character to things that are transitory or ephemeral, elevating banal moments into subjects worthy of contemplation.

Norsten's direct and minimal works sample historic paintings techniques, such as trompe l'oeil and sgraffito, while also incorporating stenciling, flat surfaces, and evocative brushstrokes that forefront the history and act of painting itself. Text figures prominently in the work, and increasingly it is deployed politically. Included in the exhibition is, *Untie, Unite*, whose blurry rendering complicates reading and intention and calls to mind what could be a sinister campaign slogan, or perhaps a tongue in cheek embrace of the typo. Another work, *A Cheerful Painting*, which in its entirety reads "A Cheerful Bright Painting in Spite of Greed Hatred Disease Bigotry Catastrophe, Corruption and Poverty in Our World," deploys a seemingly lighthearted, but scathing critique of the darker corners of the human condition. Other paintings such as *The Back Up Plan Repentance* and *Spiritual Decay* tackle the fraught topic of the problematic and often contradictory moral codes of organized religions that have increasingly become mired in partisan politics.

Pointing fingers, surveillance cameras and skulls also make appearances, often cloaked in the thin veneer of graphic design tropes—uneasy in their contradiction, yet strangely comforting in their familiarity. At times, works display a softer, contemplative note. *NOTHING EVERYTHING* might be a meditation on the exhausting, meaningless promises made by advertisements and slogans, or it could reflect a personal existential moment of clarity, while *An Imprecise Recollection*, the show's titular piece, strikes less as forlorn regret for some exact memory, but almost as paean to the role that imagination must play when memory is imperfect. While Norsten's works are part inner dialogue and part plea to pay attention, the works in sum make clear that the absurd can be an effective and cathartic political tool to expose the problematic or troubling aspects of our everyday reality.

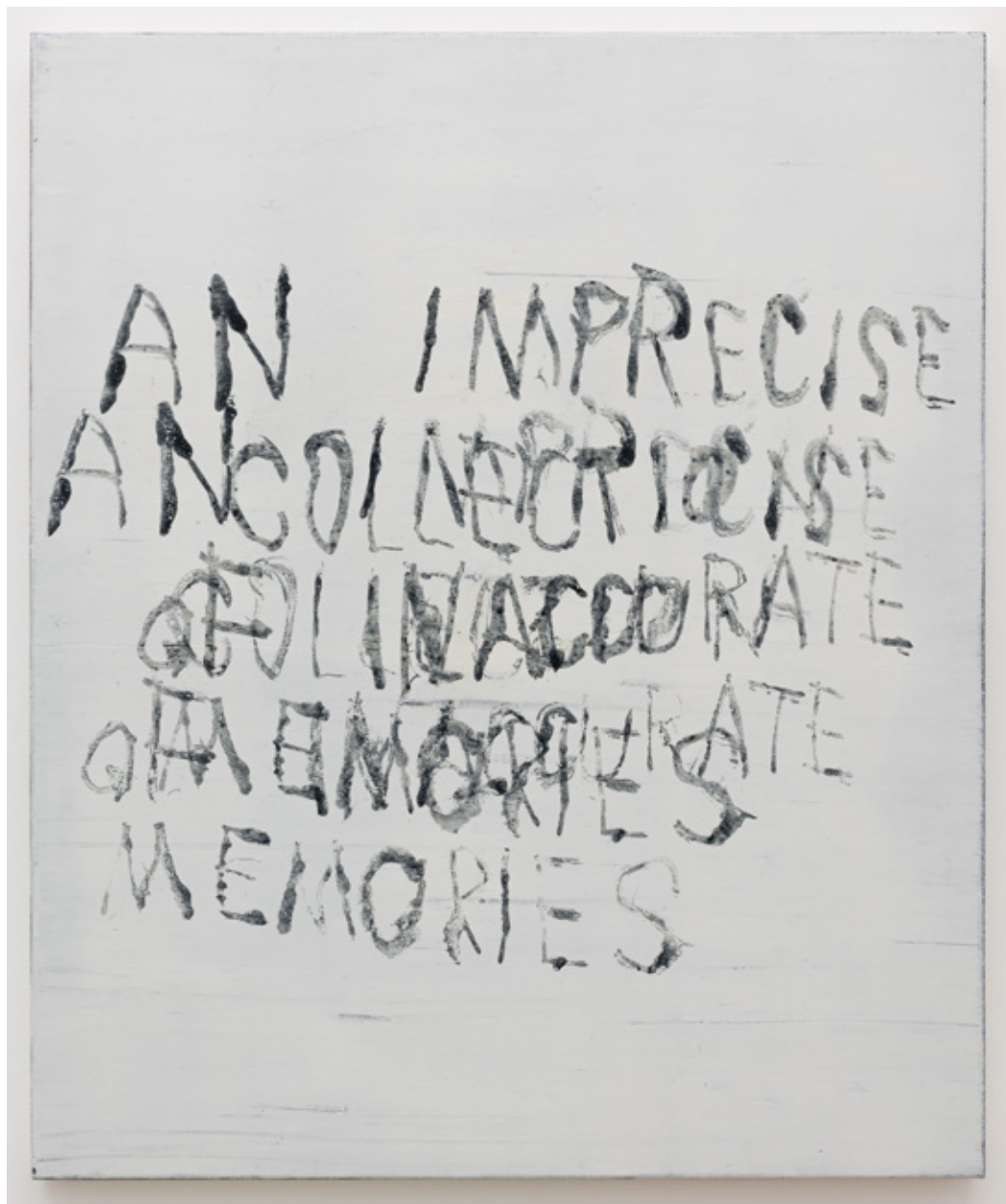
Select solo and group exhibitions include Federica Schiavo Gallery and Fondazione Giuliani, both in Rome, Italy; Dayton Art Institute, OH; Josée Bienvenu Gallery and Leo Koenig, Inc., both in New York, NY; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis Institute of Art and Midway Contemporary Art, all Minneapolis, MN. In 2006, Norsten was included in the Whitney Biennial at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY. His work is in the collections of the British Museum, London, England; the Minneapolis Institute of Arts and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, MN; Rhode Island School of Design Museum, Providence, RI; and the Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth, Hanover, NH.



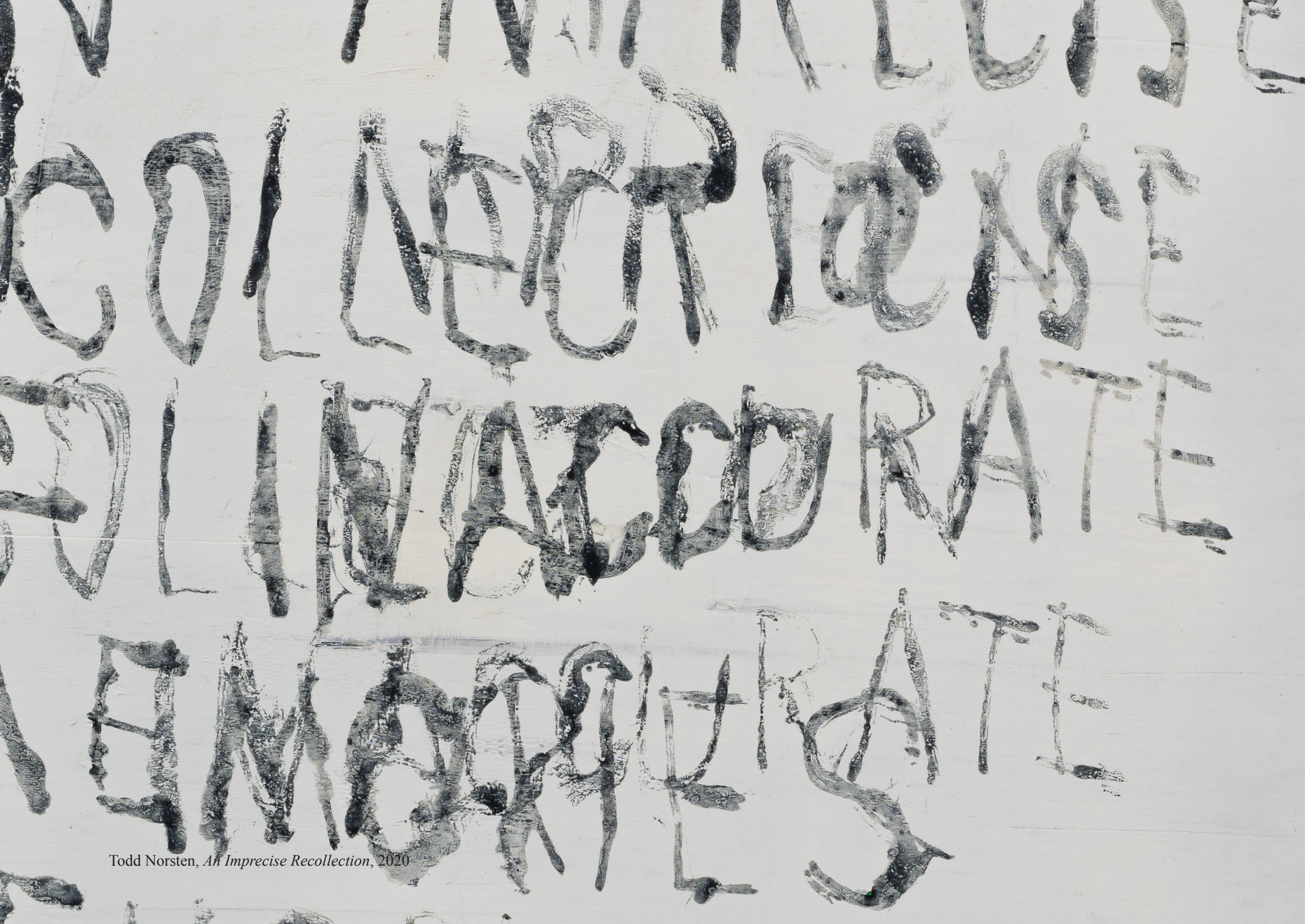
Todd Norsten
Everybody Nobody, 2020
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2020003

N O B O D Y
B O D Y

Todd Norsten, *Everybody Nobody*, 2020



Todd Norsten
An Imprecise Recollection, 2020
oil on canvas
36h x 30w in
91.44h x 76.20w cm
TN2020004



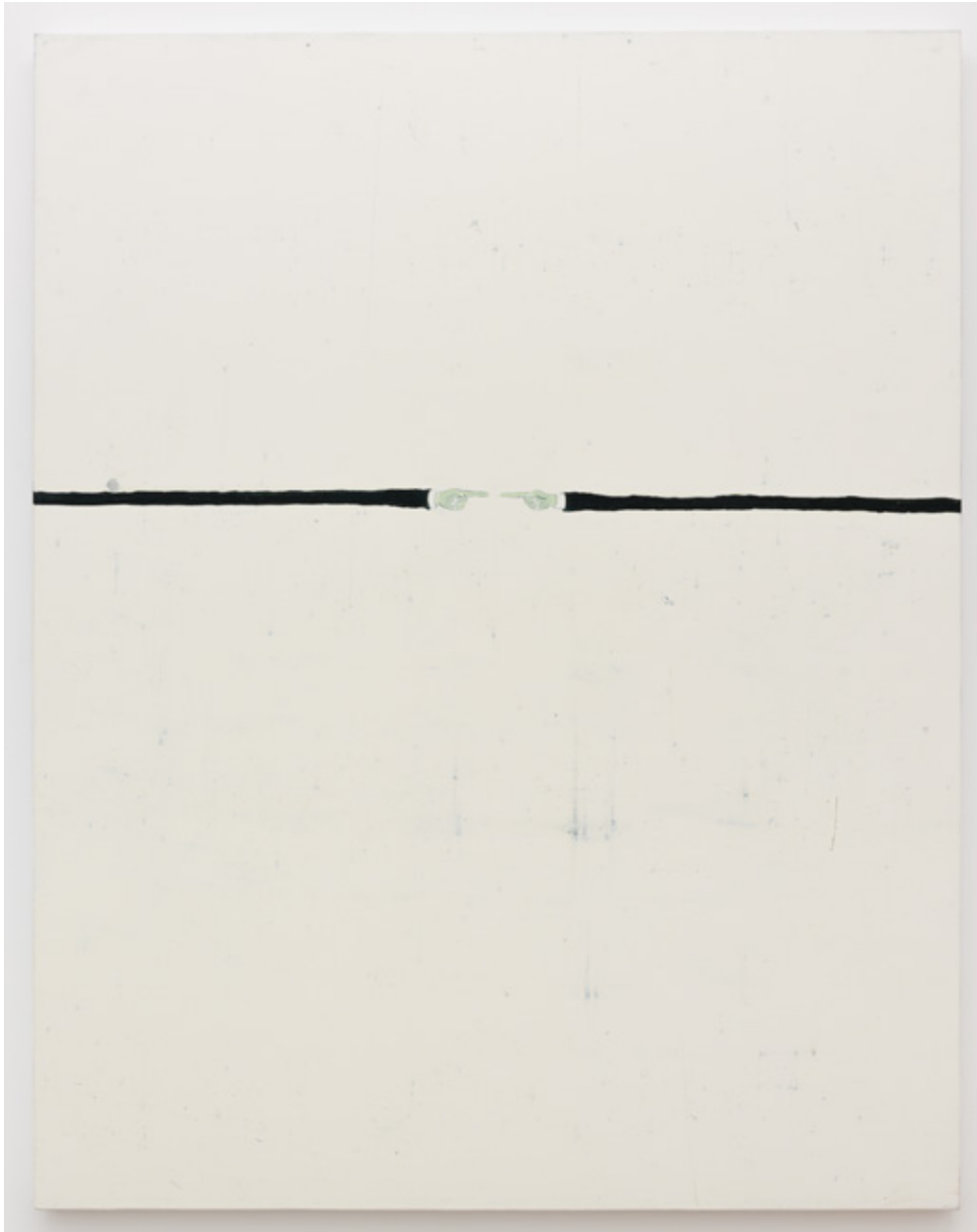
Todd Norsten, *An Imprecise Recollection*, 2020



Todd Norsten
Skull Moon, 2020
oil on canvas
56h x 44w in
142.24h x 111.76w cm
TN2020005



Todd Norsten, *Skull Moon*, 2020



Todd Norsten
Untitled, 2020
oil on canvas
56h x 44w in
142.24h x 111.76w cm
TN2020006

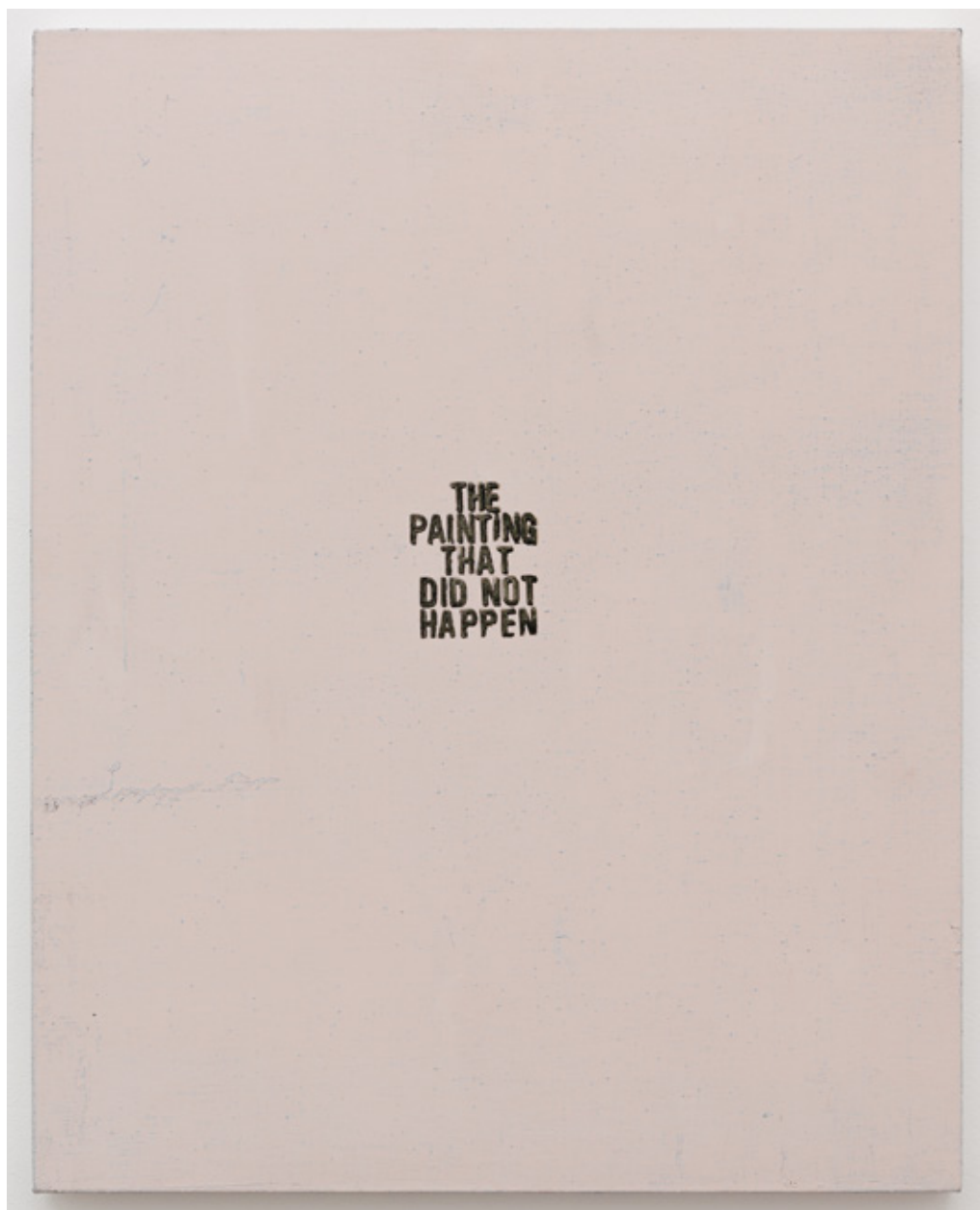


Todd Norsten, *Untitled*, 2020



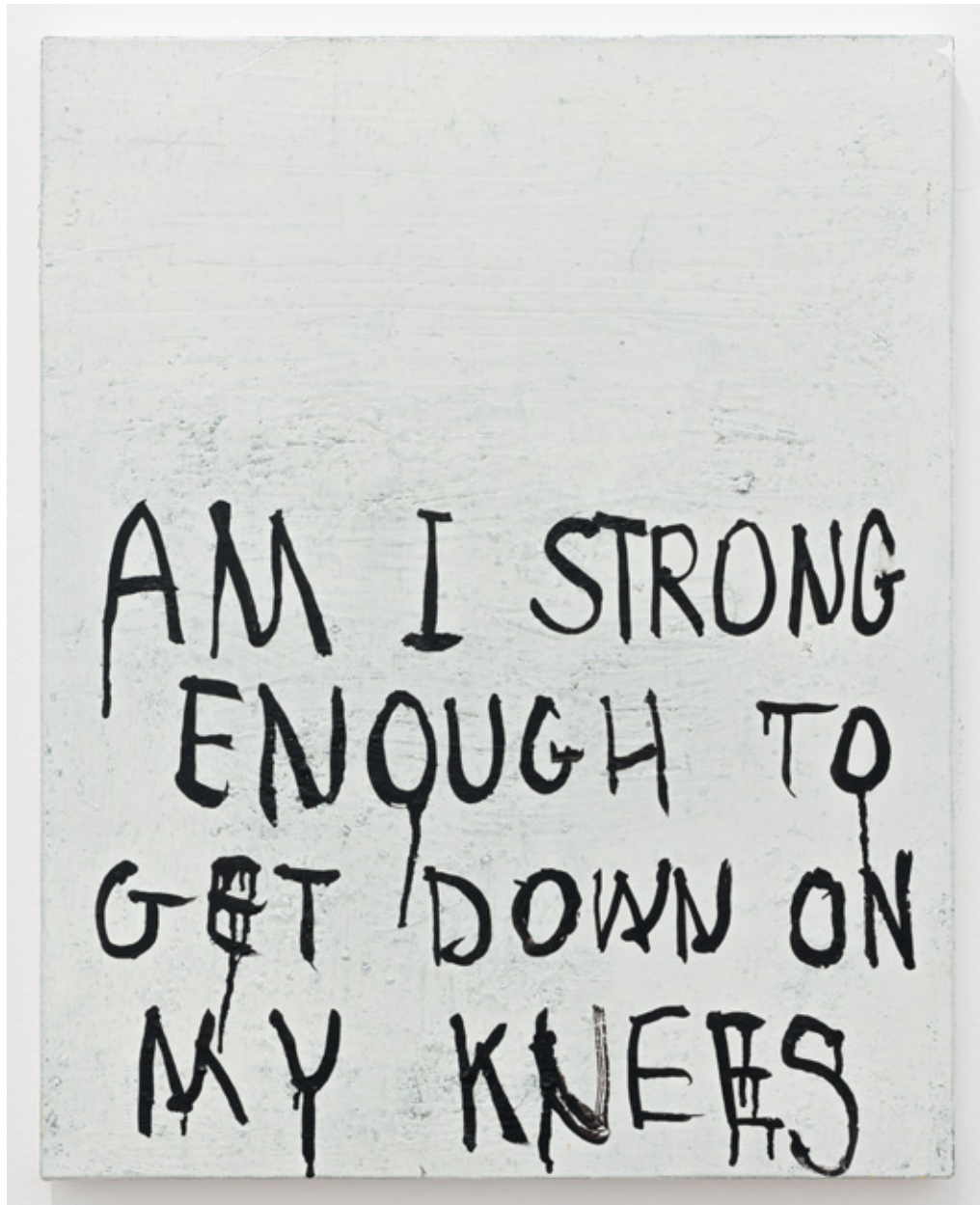
Todd Norsten
Indistinct Chatter, 2021
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2021003

(INDISTINCT CHATTER)



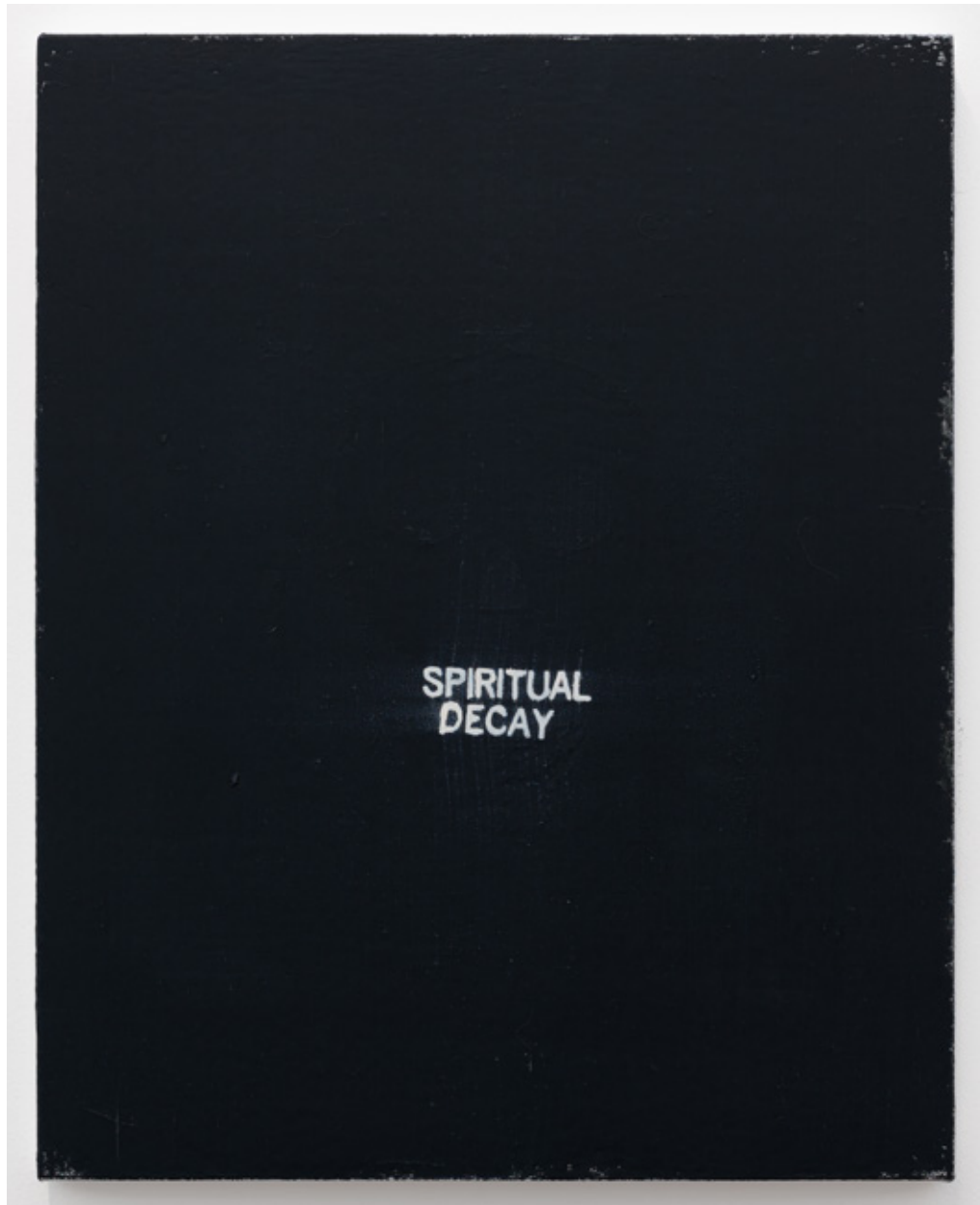
Todd Norsten
The Painting That Did Not Happen, 2021
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2021005

THE
PAINTING
THAT
DID NOT
HAPPEN



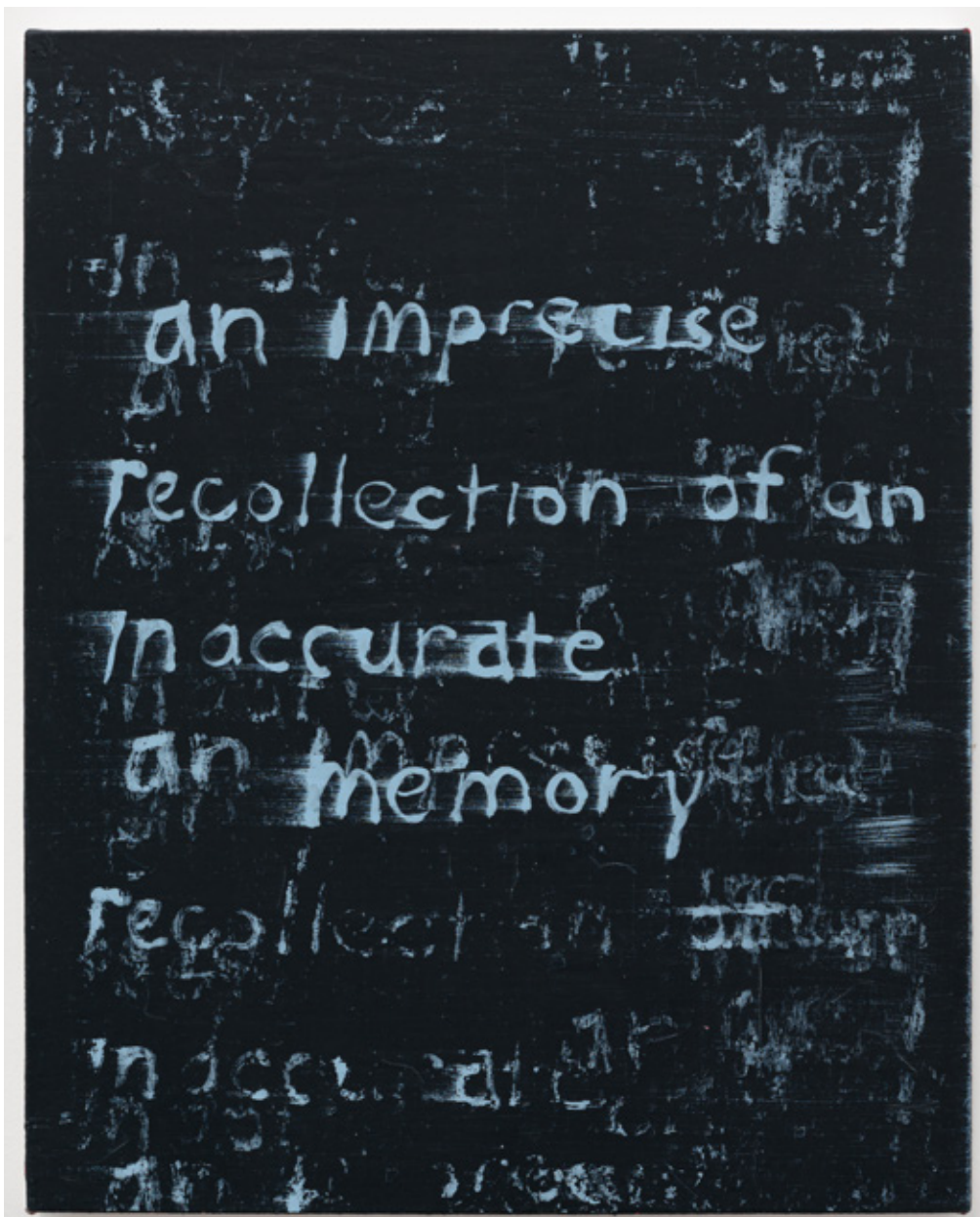
Todd Norsten
On My Knees, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022001

ANNI STRO
ENOUGH H



Todd Norsten
Spiritual Decay, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022002

SPIRITUAL
DECAY



Todd Norsten
An Imprecise Recollection, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022003

recollection of
in accurate
an memory



Todd Norsten
Area of Concern, 2021
oil on canvas
20h x 16w in
50.80h x 40.64w cm
TN2021002

AREA
OF
CONCERN



Todd Norsten
No Title, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022004



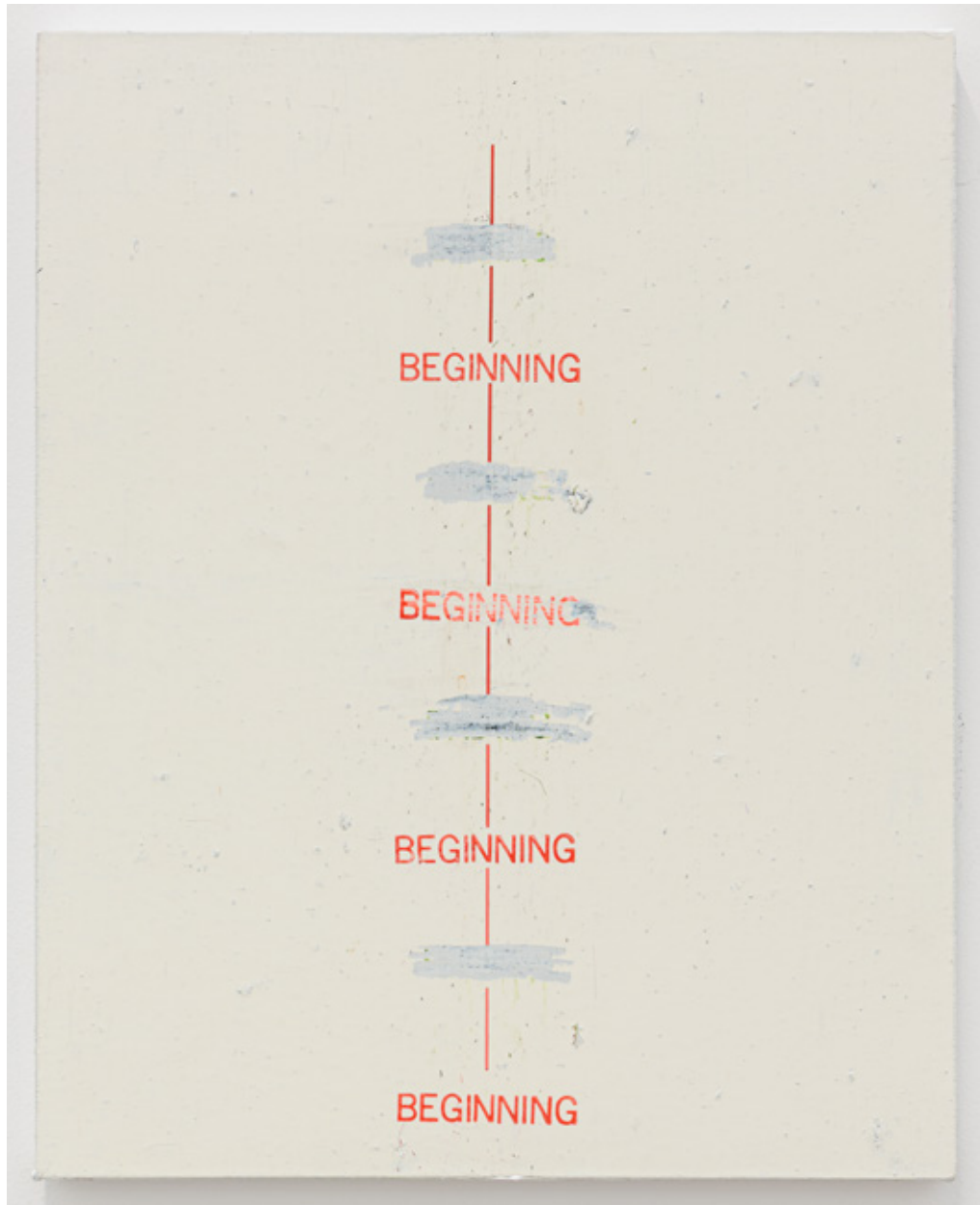
Todd Norsten, *No Title*, 2022



Todd Norsten
Little Home On The Prairie, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022005



Todd Norsten, *Little Home On The Prairie*, 2022



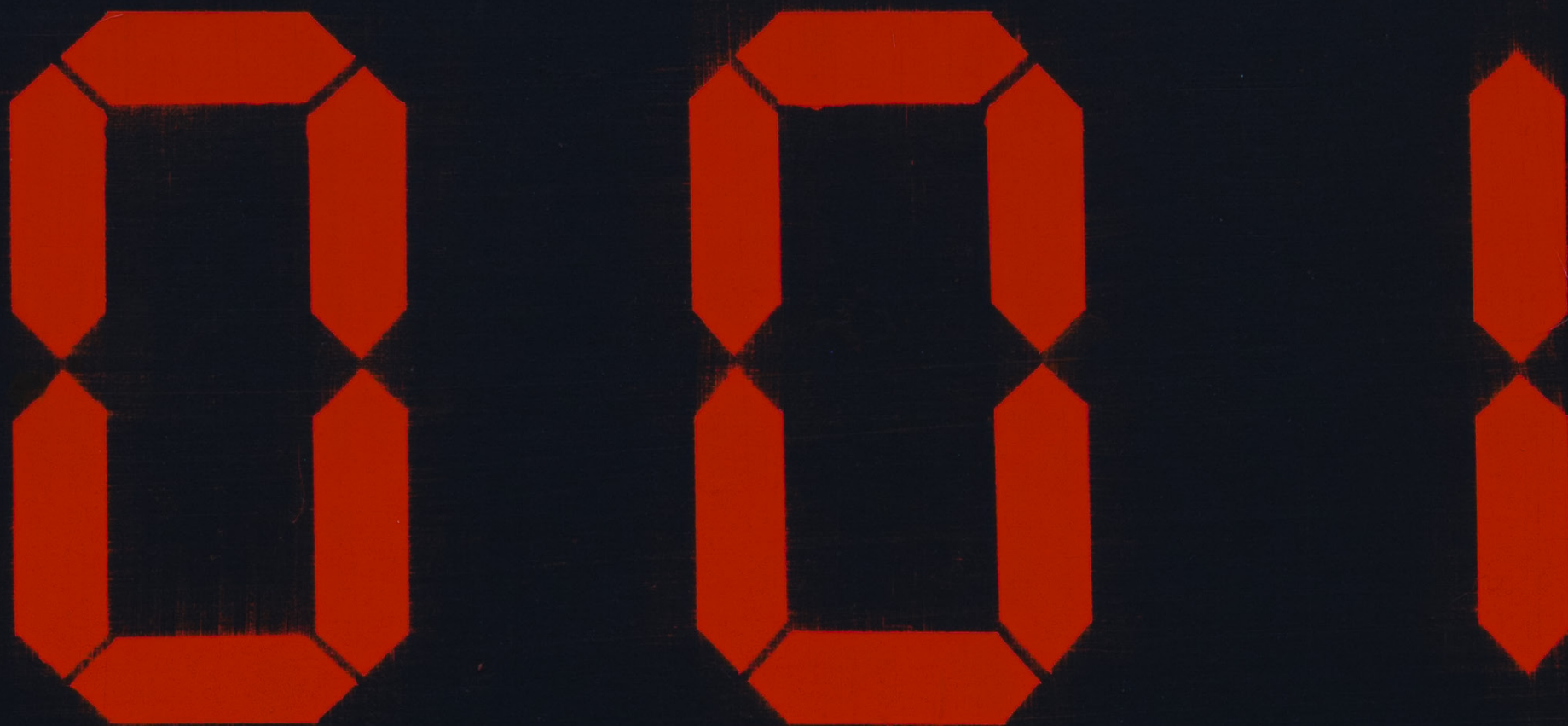
Todd Norsten
Beginning, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022006

BEGINNING

BEGINNING



Todd Norsten
00 01, 2022
oil on canvas
36h x 30w in
91.44h x 76.20w cm
TN2022007



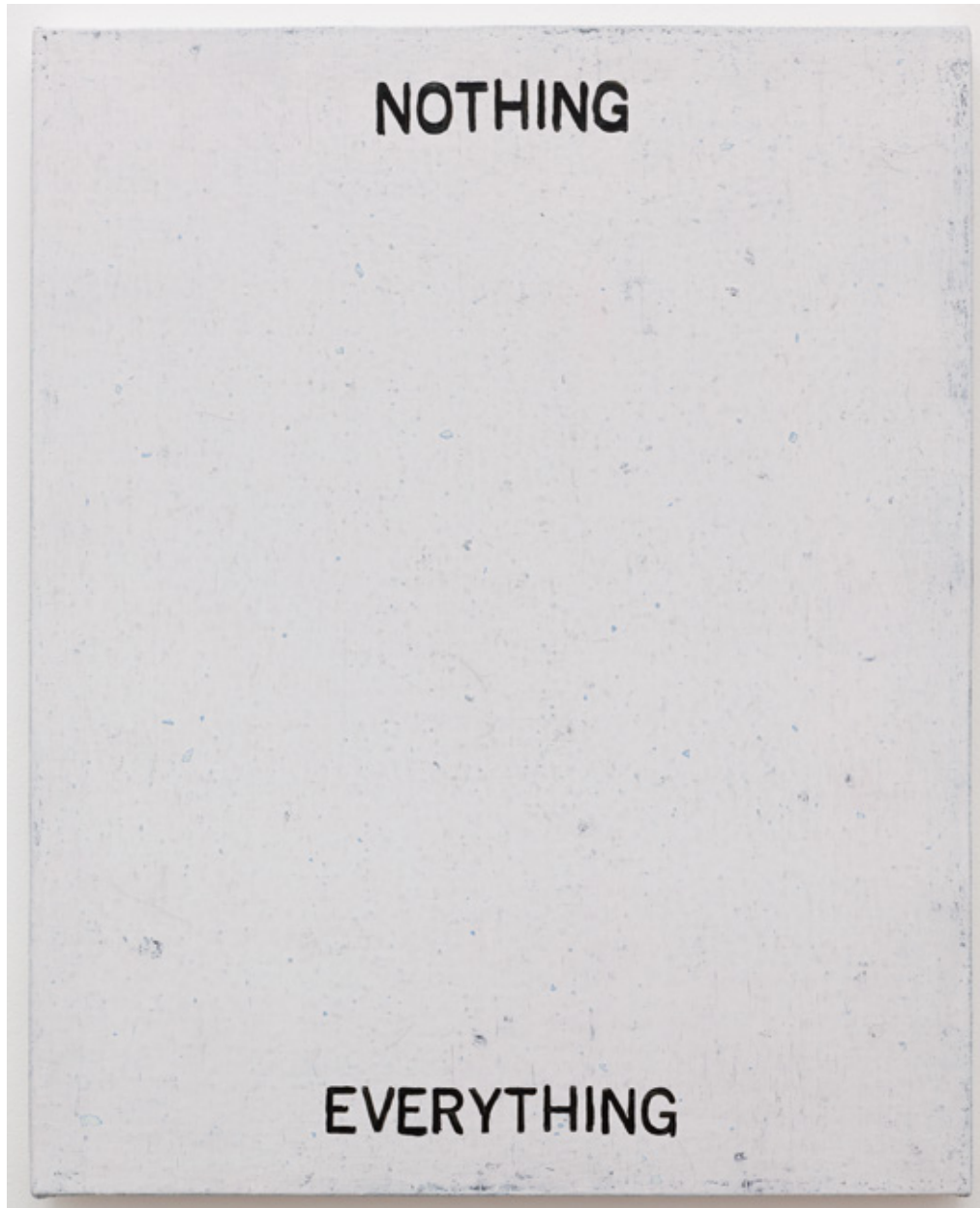
A CHEERFUL BRIGHT
PAINTING IN SPITE OF GREED
HATRED DISEASE BIGOTRY
CATASTROPHE CORRUPTION
AND POVERTY IN OUR
WORLD



Todd Norsten
A Cheerful Bright Painting, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022008

CATASTROPHE CORRUPTION
AND POVERTY IN OUR
WORLD

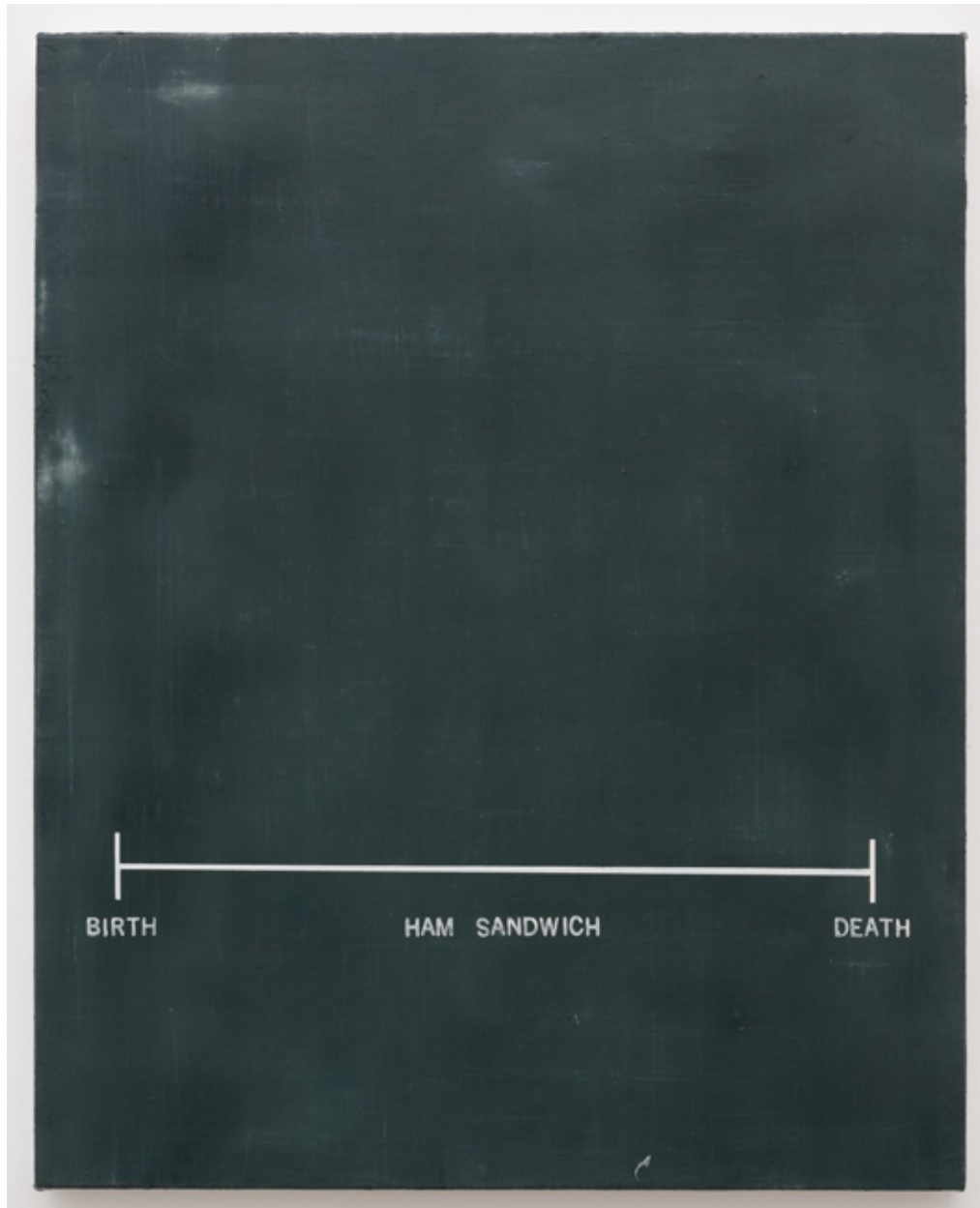




Todd Norsten
Nothing Everything, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022009

EVERYTHING

Todd Norsten, *Nothing Everything*, 2022

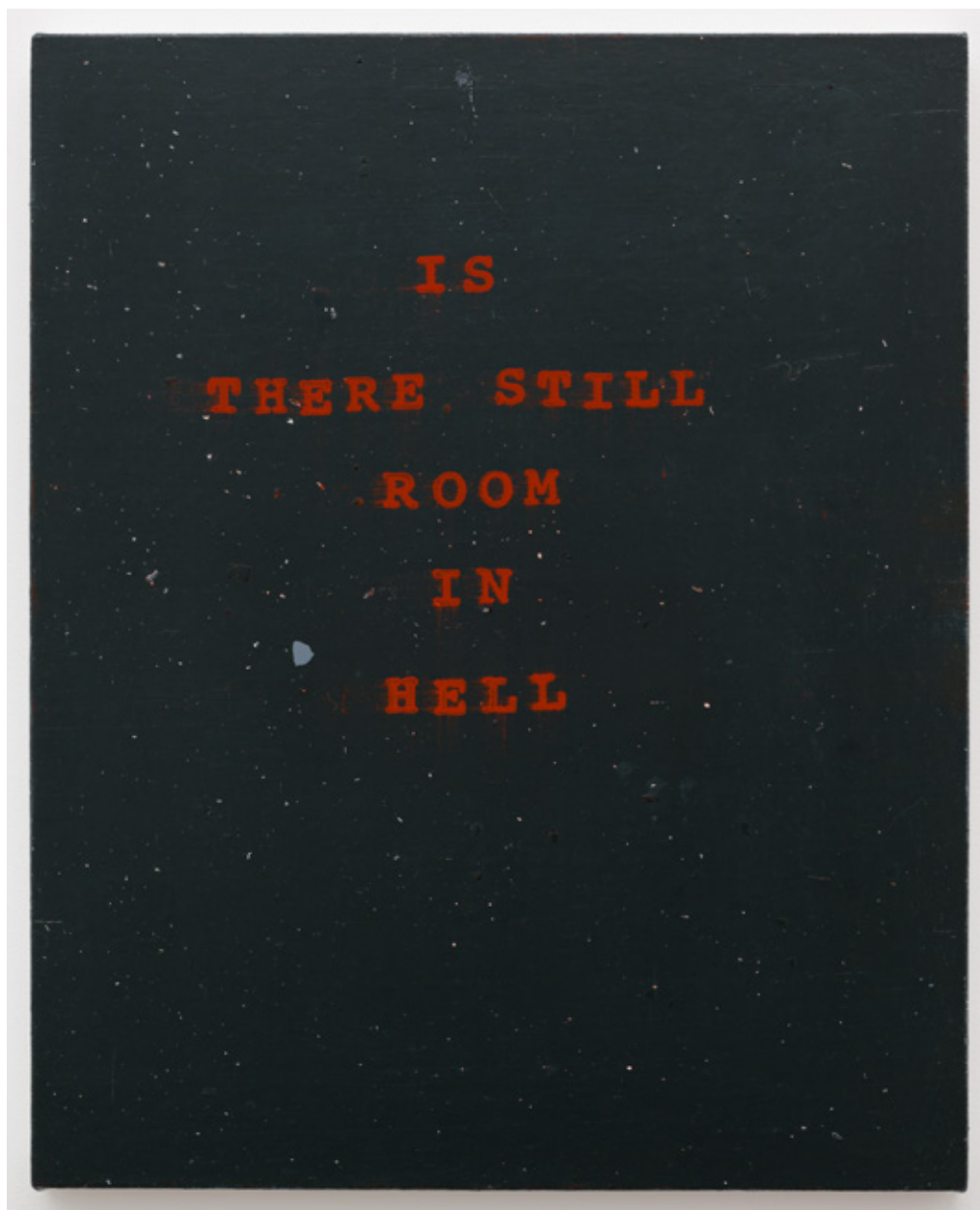


Todd Norsten
Ham Sandwich, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022010



HAM SANDWICH

DEATH



Todd Norsten
Is There Still Room in Hell, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022011

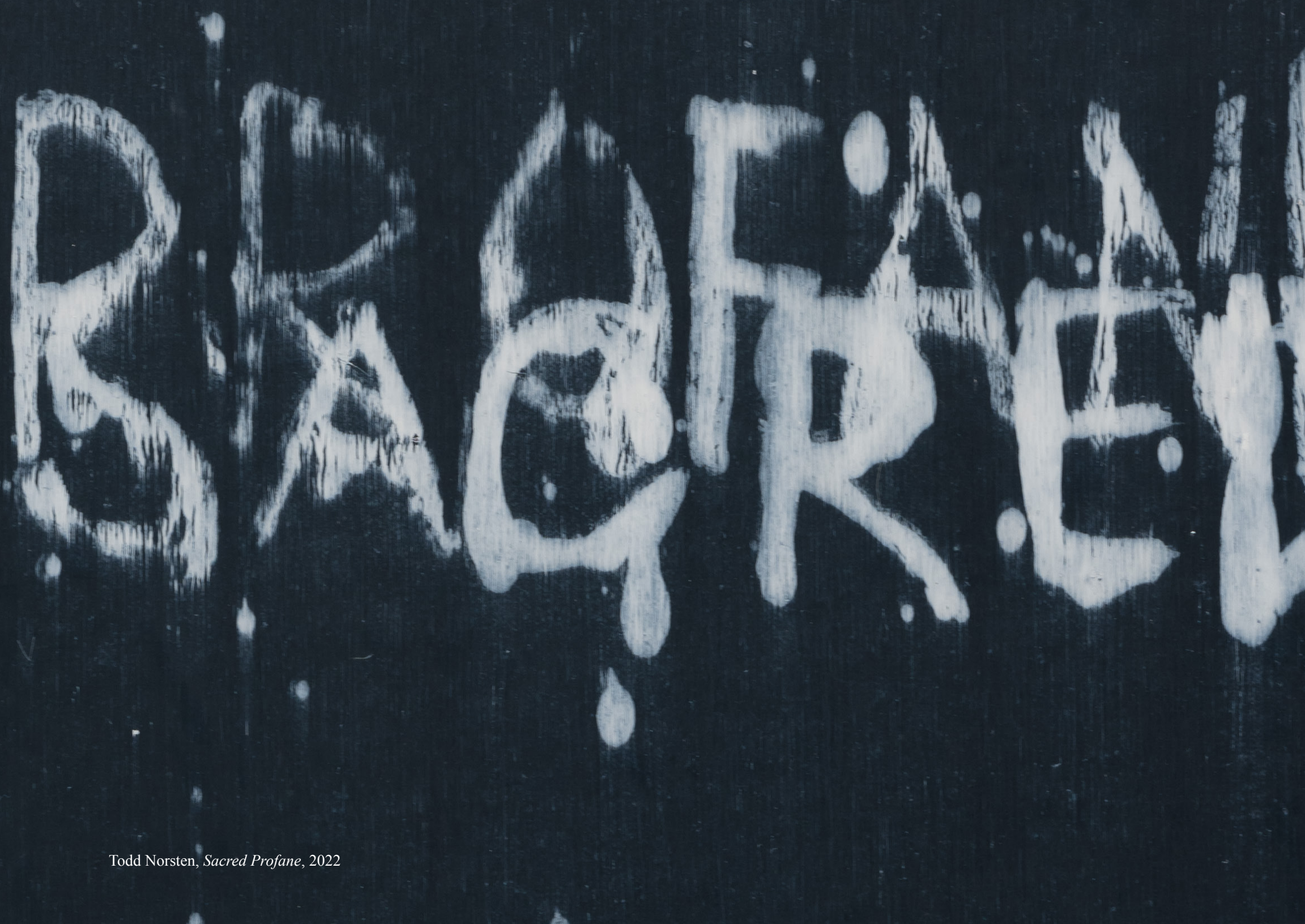
ROOM

IN

HELL



Todd Norsten
Sacred Profane, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022012



Todd Norsten, *Sacred Profane*, 2022



Todd Norsten
Deliver Me From Evil, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022013

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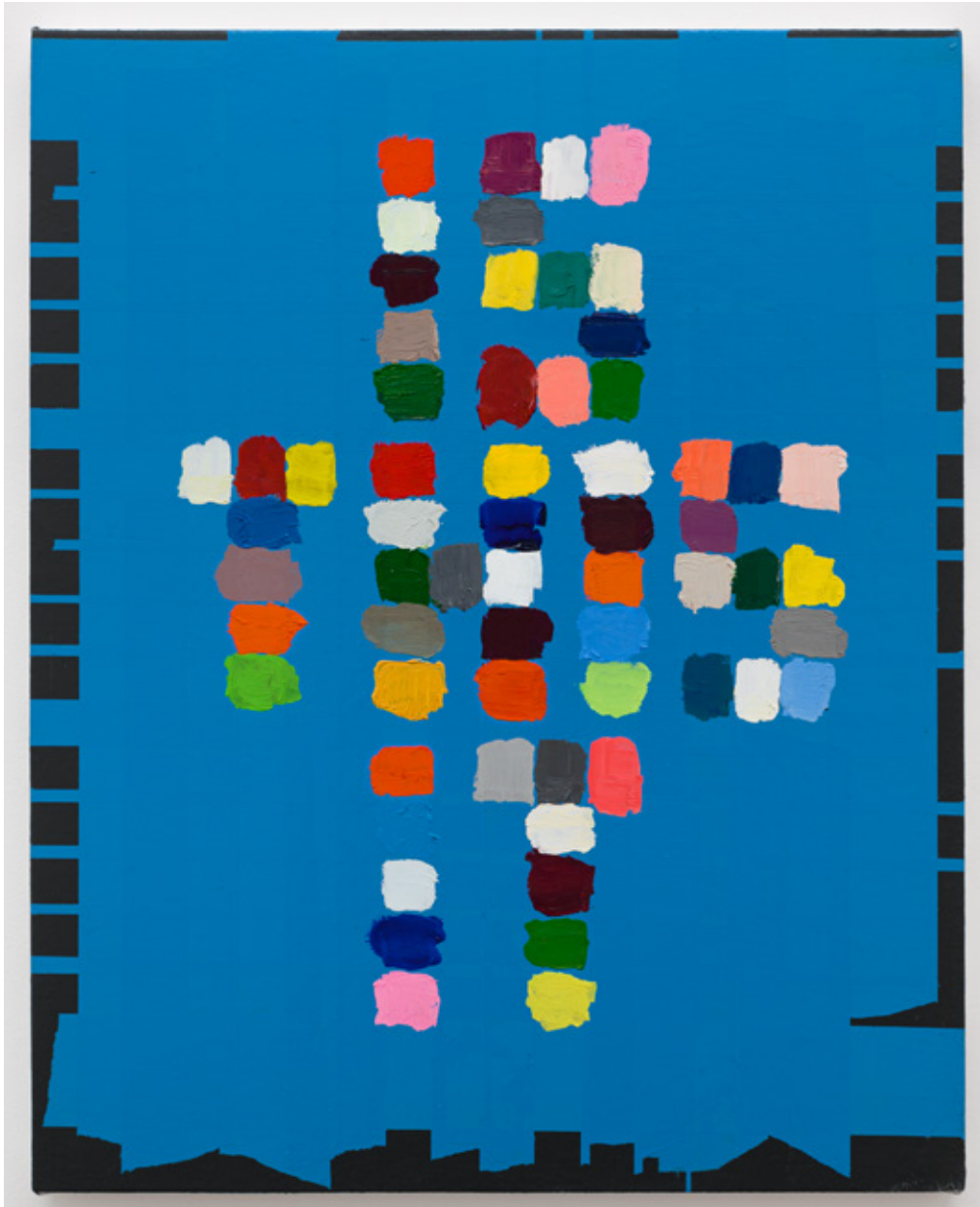
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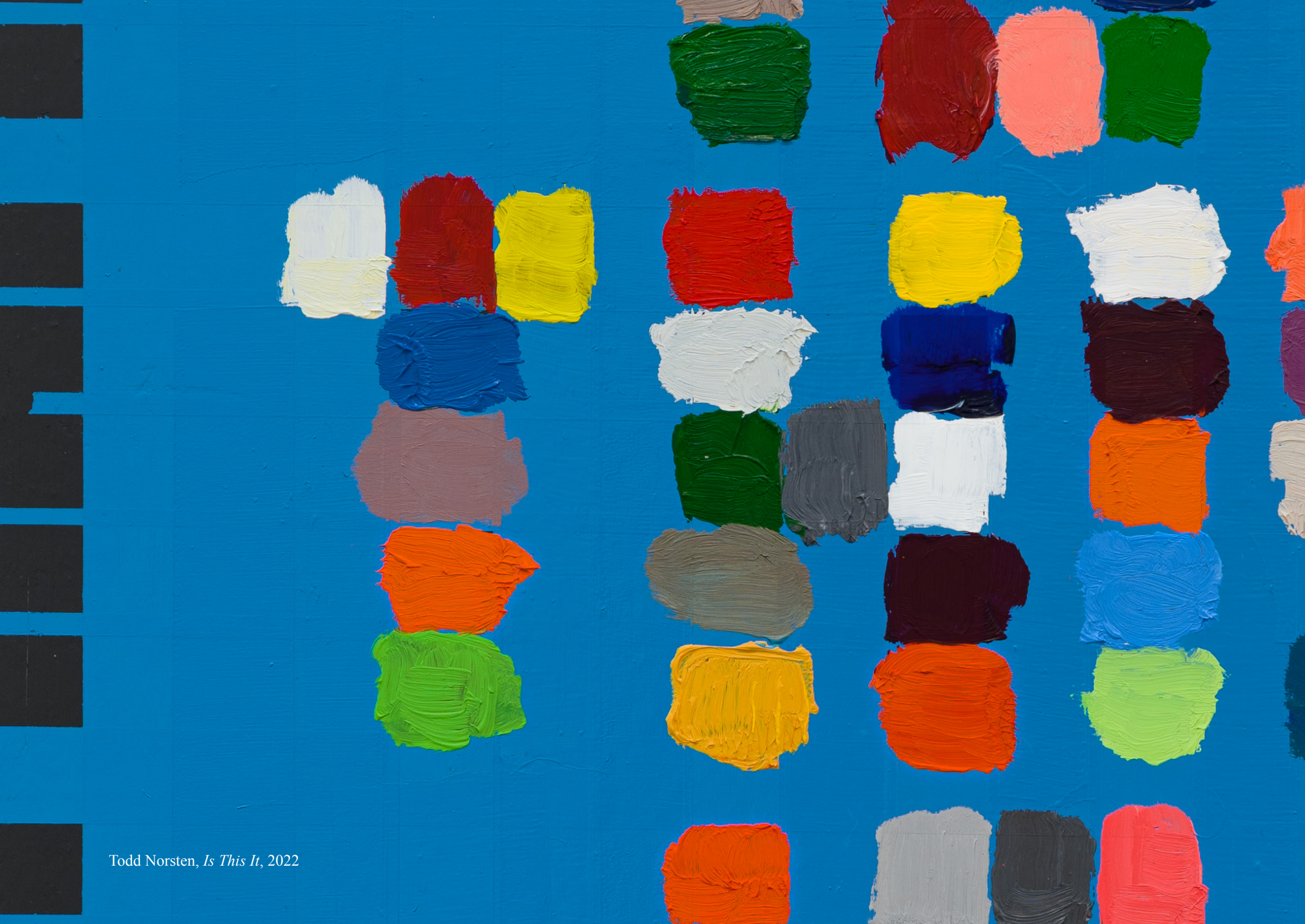
Todd Norsten
The End Of Truth, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022014



Todd Norsten, *The End Of Truth*, 2022



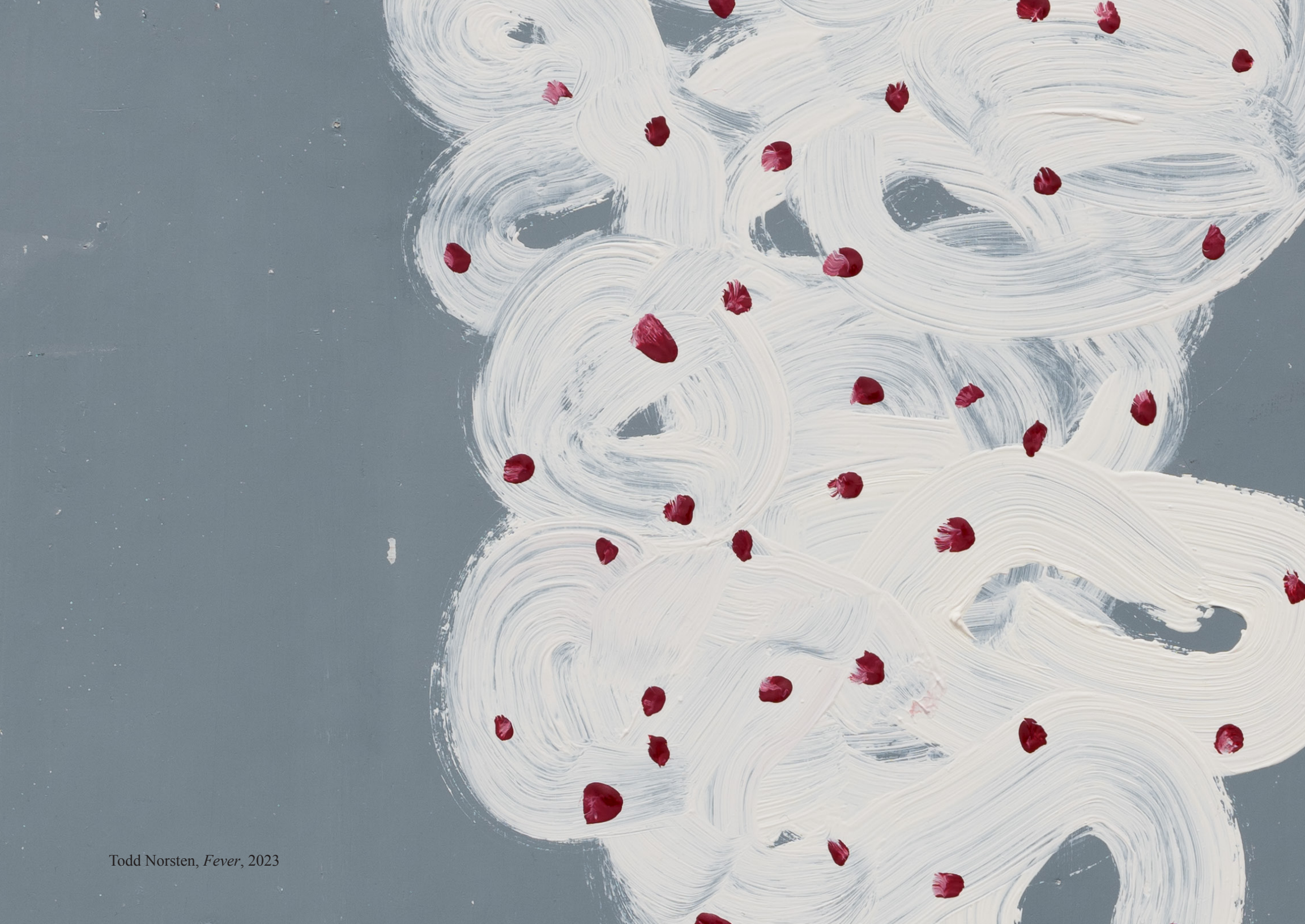
Todd Norsten
Is This Is, 2022
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2022015



Todd Norsten, *Is This It*, 2022



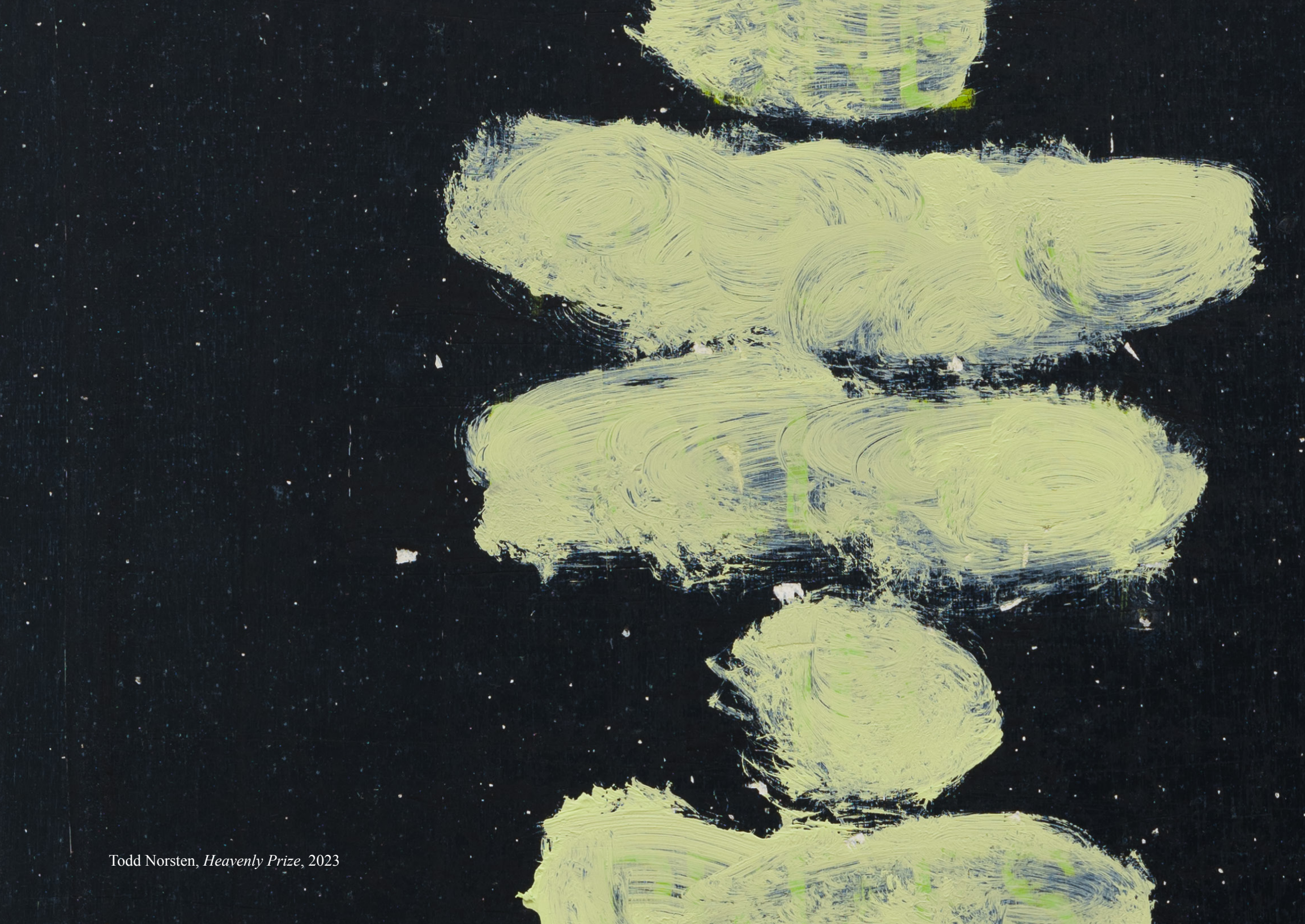
Todd Norsten
Fever, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023001



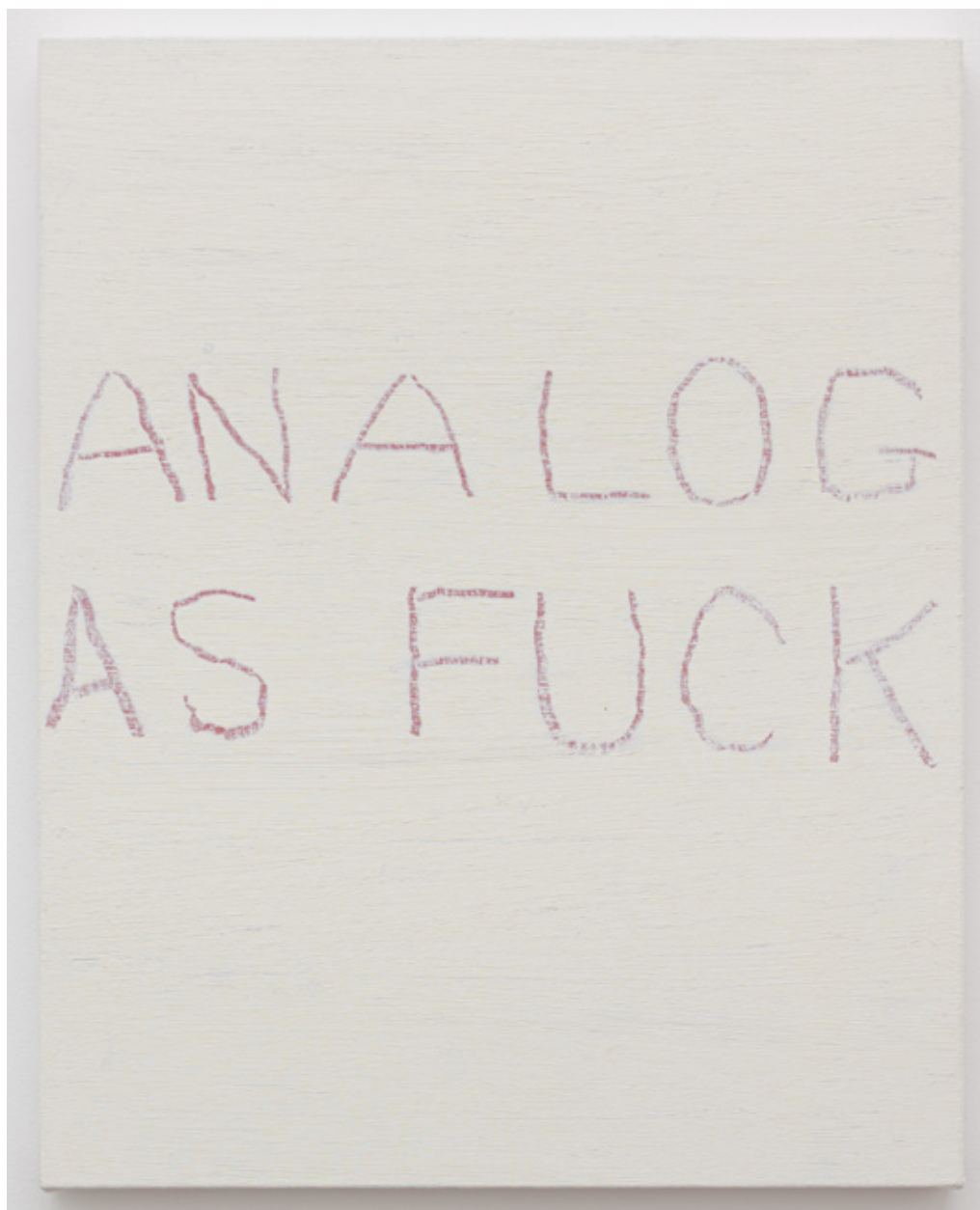
Todd Norsten, *Fever*, 2023



Todd Norsten
Heavenly Prize, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023002



Todd Norsten, *Heavenly Prize*, 2023



Todd Norsten
Analog As Fuck, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023003

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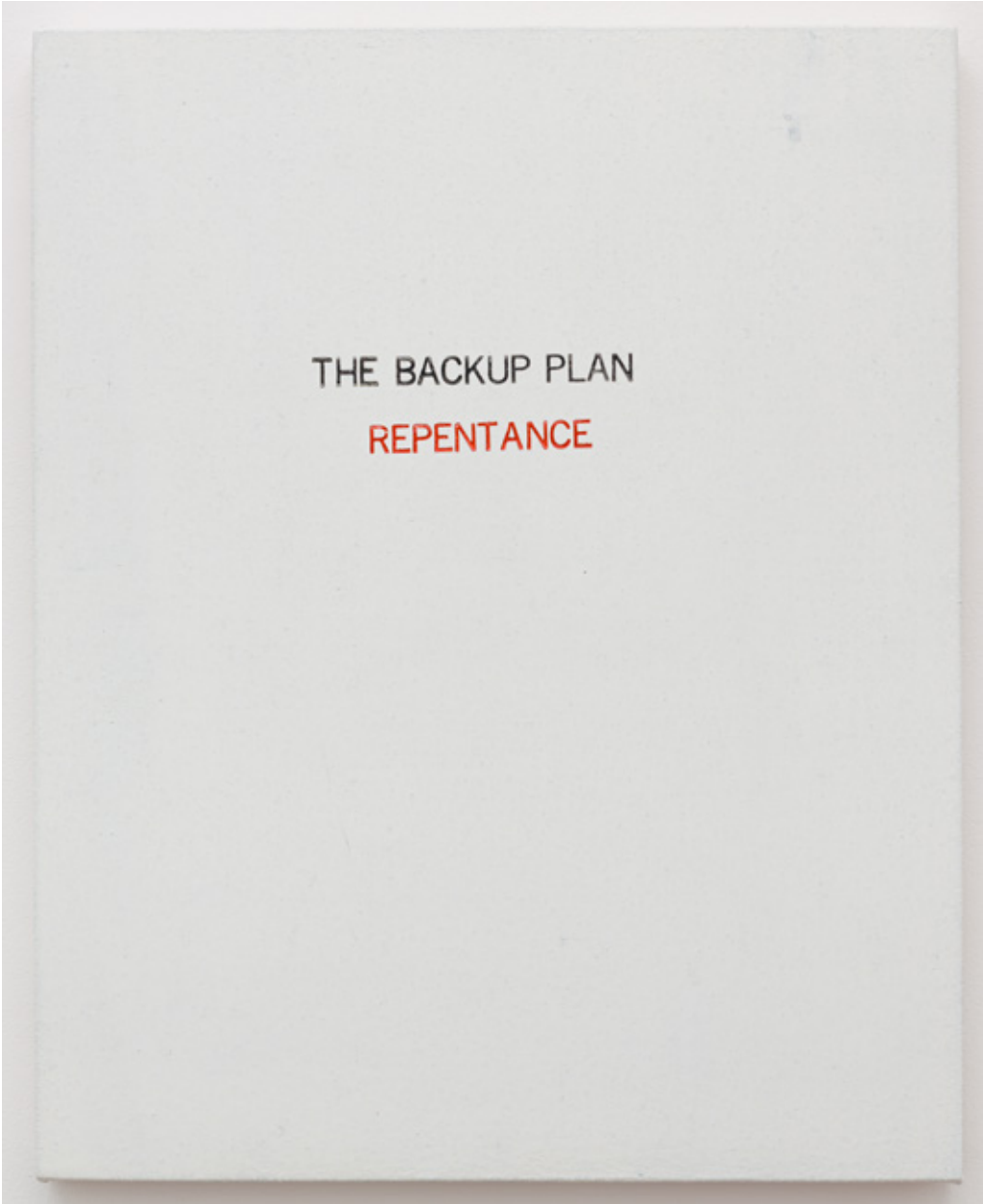
Todd Norsten, *Analog As Fuck*, 2023



Todd Norsten
Untie, Unite, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023004

UNTIE

UNITE



THE BACKUP PLAN
REPENTANCE

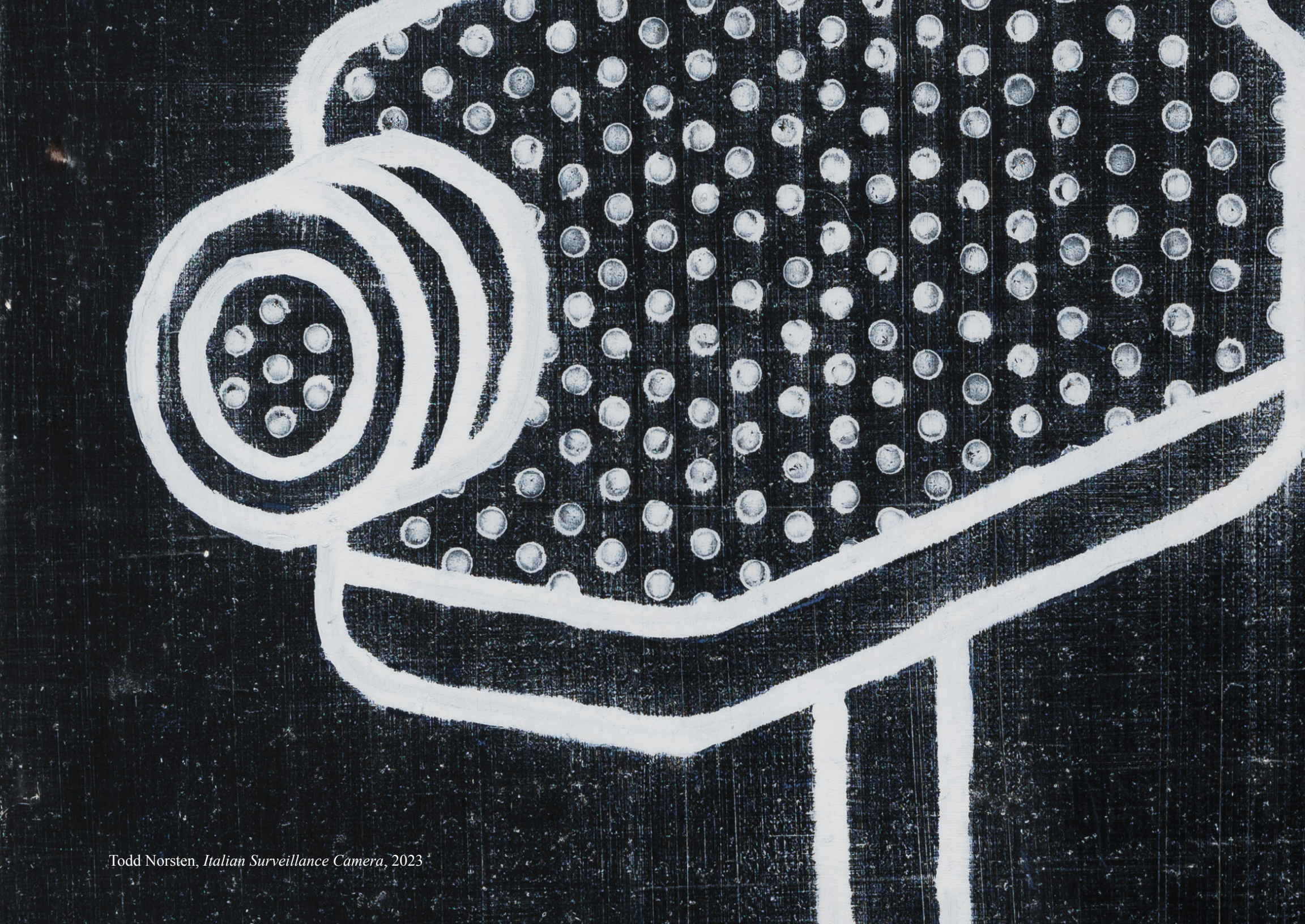
Todd Norsten
The Backup Plan, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023005

THE BACKUP PLAN

REPENTANCE



Todd Norsten
Italian Surveillance Camera, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023006



Todd Norsten, *Italian Surveillance Camera*, 2023



Todd Norsten
The End Is At Hand Again, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023007

THE END
IS AT
HAND
AGAIN

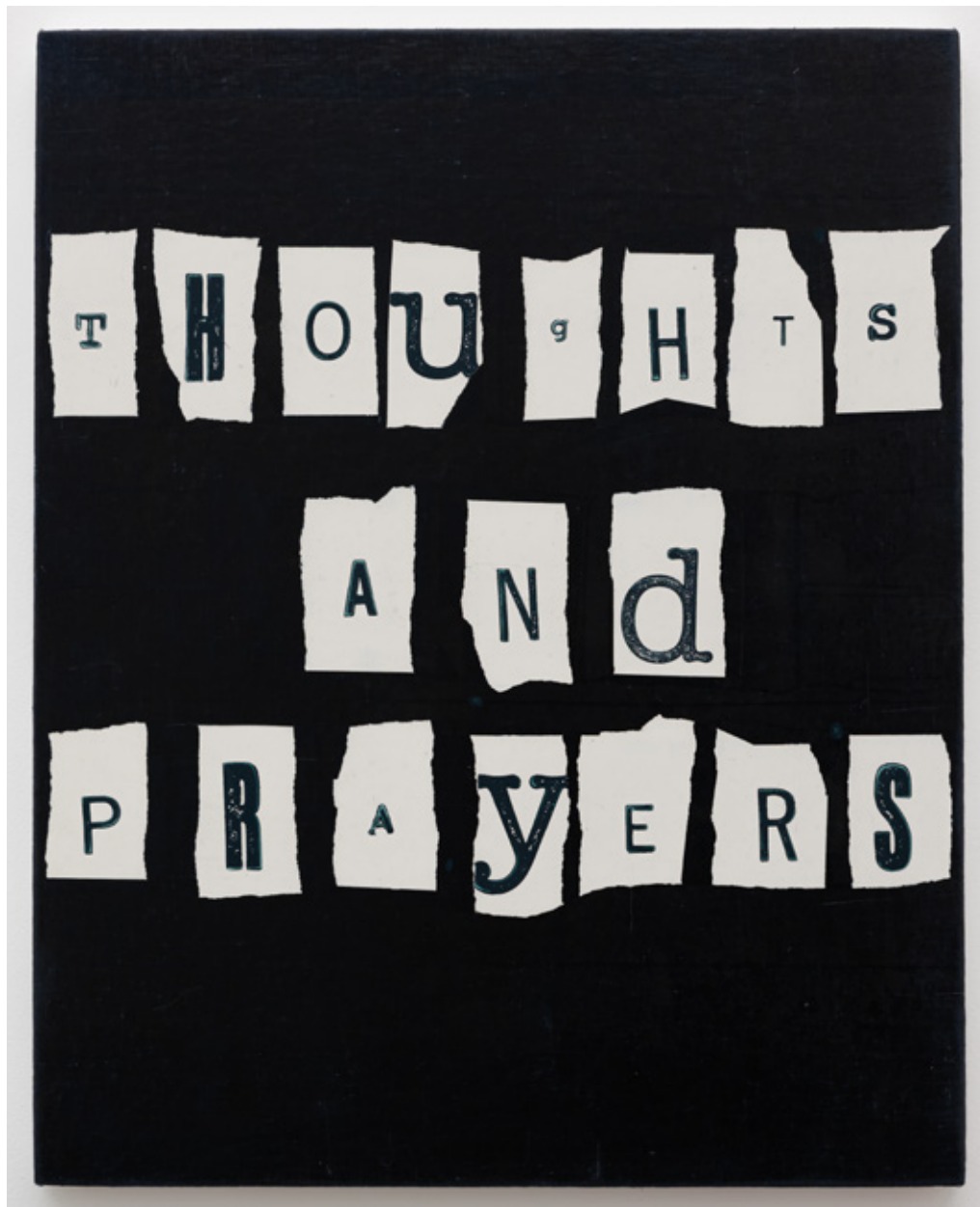


Todd Norsten
Consequences, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023008



Todd Norsten, *Consequences*, 2023

i c k l i c
c k l i c k
k l i c k



Todd Norsten
tHoUgHts ANd pRAyERS, 2023
oil on canvas
20h x 16w x 1d in
50.80h x 40.64w x 2.54d cm
TN2023010

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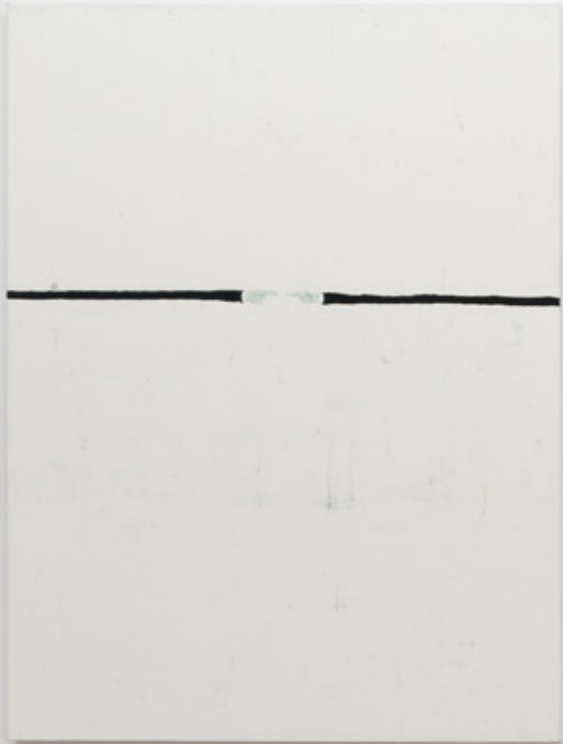
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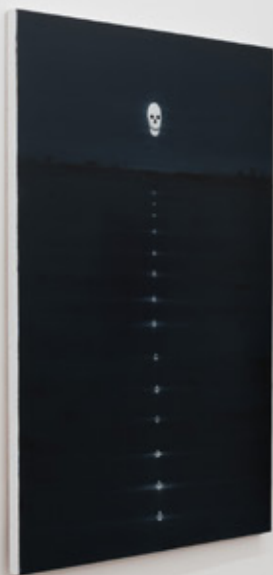
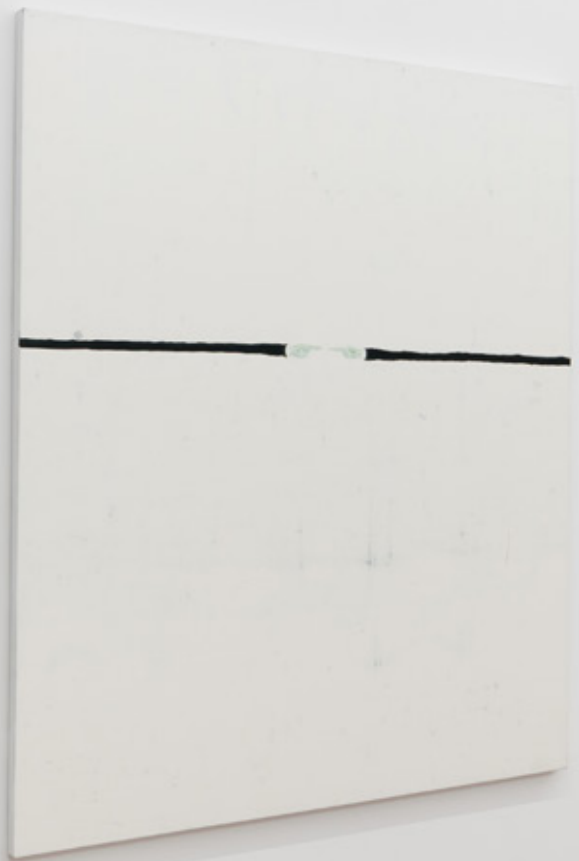
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Installation view: Todd Norsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, 2023



Installation view: Todd Norsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, 2023



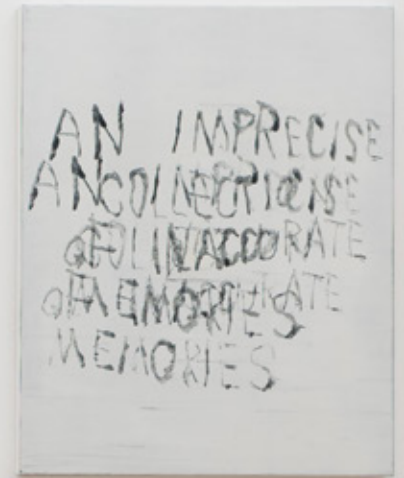
Installation view: Todd Norsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, 2023



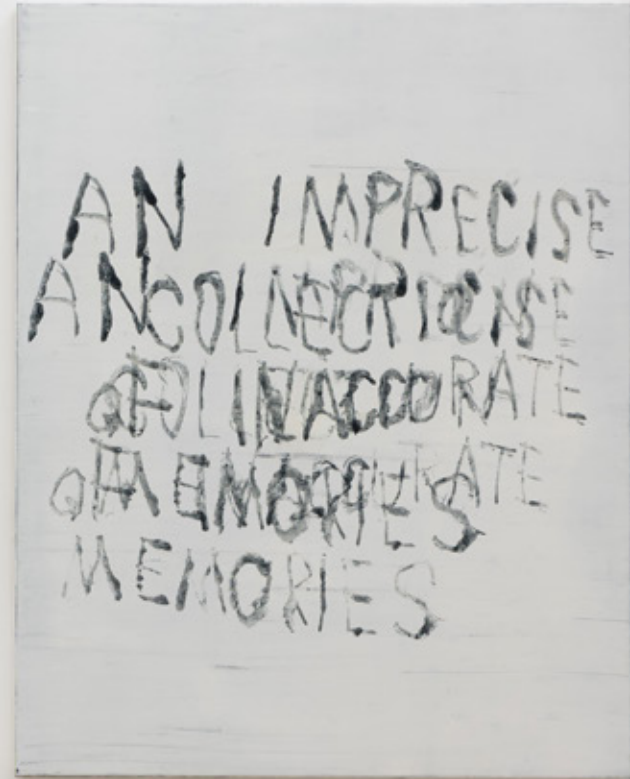
Installation view: Todd Norsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, 2023



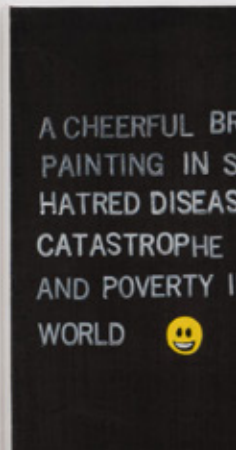
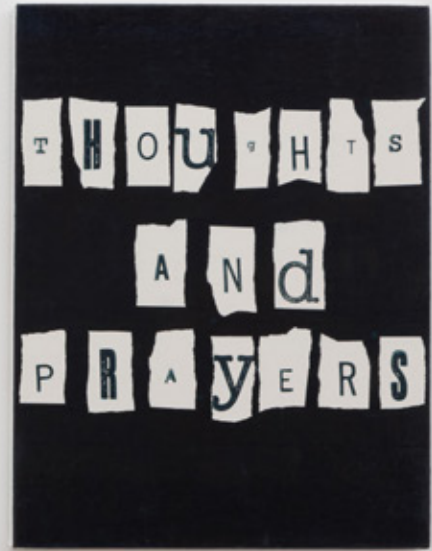
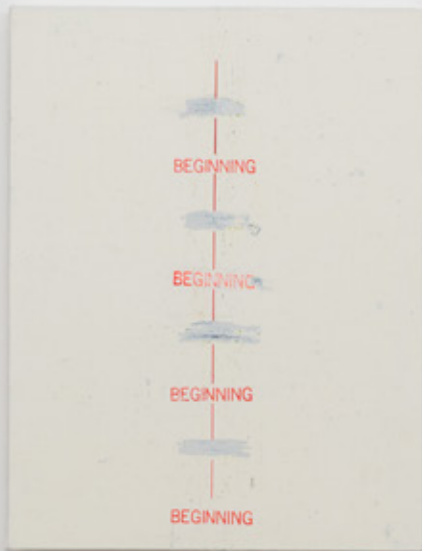
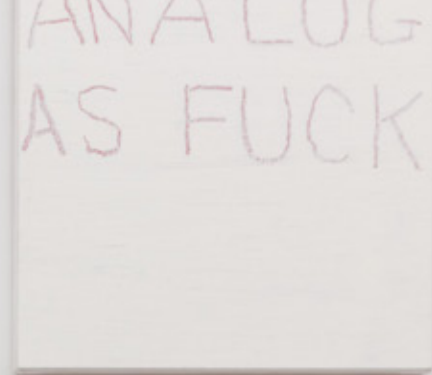
Installation view: Todd Norsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, 2023



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Installation view: Todd Norsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*, 2023



Installation view: Todd Nojsten, *And Imprecise Recollection of an Inaccurate Memory*