



Victoria Morton, *About Listening*, 2021, oil on canvas, 230 x 220 cm. Courtesy the artist & The Modern Institute/Toby Webster Ltd, Glasgow. Photo: Patrick Jameson.

Merlin James & Victoria Morton Double Shuffle

2 June – 8 July

**Opening Thursday 1 June:
Book & Edition Launch, 5pm
Reception, 6–8pm**

Kerlin Gallery is delighted to present *Double Shuffle*, a two-person exhibition by Merlin James and Victoria Morton. Presenting the artists' work side by side for the first time, the exhibition showcases two different but interlinked approaches to painting.

James and Morton have each developed an evolved, searching and idiosyncratic investigation of painting. Though distinct in style and subject matter, there is much they share, partly through a deep engagement with the history of their medium. Presented in combination their works promise a mutually enriching and illuminating push/pull, between figuration and abstraction, surface and depth, flow and resistance, dynamism and stillness, translucency and opacity: a double shuffle.

Victoria Morton's paintings teeter on the verges of abstraction and figuration, enveloping us in a sensuous universe of colour, shape and vibrational energy. Shapeshifting forms seem to shimmer and radiate, informed by musical and biological structures, and marked by a sense of openness and mutability. "Paintings are not just a flat thing to look at; they can be felt



Merlin James, *Artist*, 2023, acrylic and mixed materials, 94 x 105 cm / 37 x 41.3 in.
Image courtesy the artist & Kerlin Gallery

like clothes you put on or a room you sit in,” the artist states in a forthcoming interview for *BOMB Magazine* (Summer 2023). *Double Shuffle* marks the first time Morton’s work has been presented in Dublin. The artist will produce a new limited edition print especially for the exhibition.

Recently described by e-flux as “notorious for the confounding heterogeneity of his output”, Merlin James refines and renews many of painting’s most time-honoured concerns – genre and narrative, pictorial space and expressive gesture, the emotive resonance of colour and texture. *Double Shuffle* features a spectrum of works, including figures, seascapes, buildings, vistas, monochromes, and ‘frame’ paintings – modes that the artist has revisited and revised throughout his career. A substantial new publication, surveying 40 years of James’s work, will be launched as part of the exhibition.

Victoria Morton (b. 1971, Glasgow) has exhibited widely across the UK, Europe, Asia and North America. Solo exhibitions include Tramway, Glasgow; Inverleith House, Edinburgh; Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn; Sadie Coles, London; The Modern Institute, Glasgow; Rat Hole Gallery, Tokyo; Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum, Boston; Nino Mier Gallery, Los Angeles.

Merlin James (b. 1960, Cardiff) has had numerous solo exhibitions, including at Kettle’s Yard, Cambridge; Venice Biennale, Wales Pavilion; Sikkema Jenkins, New York; KW Institute, Berlin; CCA, Glasgow; Kunstverein, Freiberg; Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin; OCT, Shunde & Shenzhen; Anton Kern, New York; Philadelphia Art Alliance.

Media Contact

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