



STEPHEN BRAM

SUMER, TĀMAKI MAKAURAU 17 APRIL – 18 MAY 2024

Sumer is pleased to present its latest exhibition by Naarm Melbourne-based artist Stephen Bram. This is the artist's first exhibition with the gallery.

Split across two gallery spaces, the exhibition will present two bodies of the artist's works previously unexhibited in Aotearoa. The first of these are Bram's new monochromatic 'spot' paintings, which he has been producing over the past decade, and were first presented to Australian audiences in 2019. Evidently quite different to the angular perspectival-geometric works for which he has become best known, on first viewing these new works appear to be a radical departure for the artist; however, many of his ongoing concerns regarding abstraction and the rendering of illusionistic space are also evident here, albeit with differing cadence and effect.

The second group of work to be shown here—two smaller paintings—are very much set apart. Figurative and surreal; one is a collaborative work, produced with school friends and non-artists, Torquil Todd and David Morrison, which they started in 1981, and was only to be completed some 37 years later, in 2018. The second piece, a depiction of an interior, bares greater semblance to Bram's well known works, yet with crudeness that is unexpected. Bram describes the works as, in the first instance, "childishly exuberant, and florid", and in the second, "rather subdued and sober"; he also proclaims both pieces to be "badly painted".

Both bodies of work reflect an underlying change in the artist's attitude towards their practice. Bram no longer subscribes to the notion that an artist's oeuvre should be defined according an enquiry which is inherently iterative, singular and monolithic. Instead, now approaching the making and presenting work with greater sense of openness, he states, the only constraint that should govern an artist's output is, "to show that which otherwise would remain invisible".

Stephen Bram (b. 1961, Melbourne, Australia) currently lives and works in Melbourne. Working across various modalities, primarily in paint and installation, his works have been executed in galleries and museums around the world. Bram's work (1988-present) experimentally reconfigures the relationship between the work, the exhibition space and the viewer. He was one of a small group of artists involved in Store 5 in 1989, an artist-run exhibition space in Melbourne which was an important centre for the development of conceptually oriented abstract painting in Australia. Since 2014 the artist has also worked more subjectively, producing a series of black and white illusionistic 'spot' paintings, amongst other activities. Bram's works are held in public and corporate collections including the Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Museum of Contemporary Art Australia, Sydney; Daimler Collection, Berlin; Melbourne University, Melbourne; Monash University, Melbourne; University of Queensland, Brisbane; Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Art Gallery of Western Australia, Perth and Chartwell Collection, Auckland Art Gallery.



STEPHEN BRAM

SUMER, TĀMAKI MAKAURAU
17 APRIL – 18 MAY 2024

MAIN GALLERY



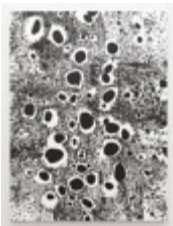
Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
201 x 164 cm
79 x 64 1/2 in
(SBR-000006)



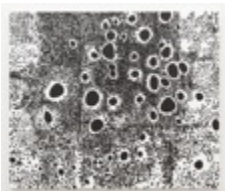
Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
201 x 149 cm
79 x 58 1/2 in
(SBR-000005)



Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2021
Acrylic on canvas
159 x 152 cm
62 1/2 x 60 in
(SBR-000003)



Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
140 x 103 cm
55 x 40 1/2 in
(SBR-000004)



Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
100 x 121 cm
39 1/2 x 47 1/2 in
(SBR-000002)



WINDOW GALLERY

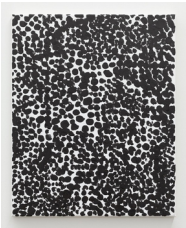


Stephen Bram, Torquil Todd and David Morrison
Untitled, 1981/2023
Oil on board
92.5 x 122.5 cm
36 1/2 x 48 in
(SBR-000007)

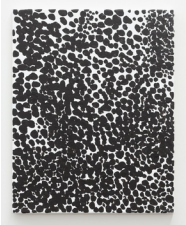


Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2024
Acrylic on canvas
24.5 x 30 cm
9 1/2 x 12 in
(SBR-000011)

OTHER WORKS



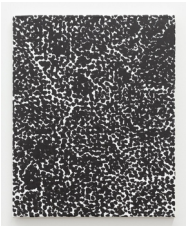
Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2017
Acrylic on canvas
50.5 x 40 cm
20 x 16 in
(SBR-000010)



Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
50.5 x 40 cm
20 x 16 in
(SBR-000009)



Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2020
Acrylic on canvas
50.5 x 40 cm
20 x 16 in
(SBR-000008)



Stephen Bram
Untitled, 2018
Acrylic on canvas
50.5 x 40 cm
20 x 16 in
(SBR-000007)