

BRISHTY ALAM

DAVID GRUBER

*Solid Mesh*

*Solid Mesh* explores the cold, innate qualities of everyday reality, challenging the feeling of powerlessness when facing structures and currents far beyond the scale of the individuals who encounter them. Mesh is innately solid, yet by exaggerating or dramatising its inherent qualities, a whole new world unfurls – one filled with material becomings and planetary complicities.

*Has the world stopped, or have we just learned to move along its axes?*

With his *Performance* series, David Gruber approaches the image as a space of active engagement, aligning the paintings in visual choreographies where the depicted subject matter – the textured surfaces of microphone mesh – becomes a surprising point of symbolic contention. The microphones function both as symbolic figures and material environments. They are embedded into abstract landscapes or create their own and, as such, bridge the phantasmagorical dimensions of performance and spectacle with the intense interiority of matter itself. Performance, in this sense, is not about the familiar and resonant but of the eschewed and otherworldly – the unimagined or rarely seen.

The paintings in the show, more than endpoints of creative endeavour or aesthetic experience, present scenes or stages for an active re-negotiation of their relationship with the viewer, eventually turning the “mic” onto the audience themselves. Meanwhile, the sculptures and drawings by Brishty Alam draw on the structural features of everyday reality to deliver material forms that act ever more autonomously – instilling their effects onto a broader aesthetic regime.

Alam’s work explores the material dynamics of shapes and designs associated with scientific equipment, like chemistry flasks and reaction chambers. With her processual approach to art-making, often referencing and reusing drawings, sketches, calculations, and graphs, her work gains a modular quality that resonates with her attention to the abstract and transformative potential of parts and particles. Another white solid references the mundane reality of chemical compounds, which seems tied more to stasis or immutability than wondrous transmutation. Yet, in their structural depths, these forms nonetheless reveal strange and compelling worlds, each with its own intricate poetics and sense.

Between the two practices, change comes gradually – from within solid, at times whimsically rigid, forms. As such, however, it expresses the possibility of transformation of even the most unyielding structures and systems – whether scientific codes of knowledge production or the societal regimes and attention economies that dictate who gets to speak and when. *Solid Mesh* accepts the cold embrace of material reality, in which one cannot help but feel small and powerless. Yet, just as the zoomed-in, micro-perspective of the microphone mesh in the *Performance* paintings or the textures and fissures within *Another white solid* dance

dangerously on the edge of becoming their opposites, the subtle voices of material landscapes – their fields of intensity – anticipate a shift in our own embodied perspectives and, through that, an alternative vision of what’s to come.

Domen Ograjenšek

LIST OF WORKS

Downstairs (left to right)

David Gruber, *Performance/ Diamond*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 73 x 60 cm

David Gruber, *Performance*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 60 x 50 cm

Brishty Alam, *Another white solid (II)*, 2025, expanded polystyrene, pigment, steel, 160 x 110 x 105 cm

David Gruber, *Performance/ Diamond*, 2025, tempera on canvas, 60 x 50 cm

David Gruber, *Performance*, 2025, tempera on canvas, 53 x 48 cm

Upstairs (front room, left to right)

Brishty Alam, *Another white solid (I)*, 2023, expanded polystyrene, pigment, 135 x 100 x 85 cm

Brishty Alam, *BAND (IV)*, 2025, pastel on paper on expanded polystyrene, 65 x 50 cm

Brishty Alam, *BAND (VI)*, 2025, pastel on paper on expanded polystyrene, 50 x 65 cm

Upstairs (back room, left to right)

David Gruber, *Performance*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 30 x 40 cm

David Gruber, *Performance*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 53 x 73 cm

David Gruber, *Performance*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 40 x 60 cm

David Gruber, *Untitled*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 41 x 24 cm

David Gruber, *Performance*, 2024, tempera on canvas, 30 x 40 cm

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