

M. L^EBLANC

"I'm less interested in narrative than in aura. In what a figure can hold or transmit. My aim is to build visual worlds that suggest a spectral presence of a no-time between the archaic and unrealized futures."

M. LeBlanc is proud to present 'CORE', the gallery's first exhibition with Detroit-based artist Israel Aten. The exhibition also marks Aten's debut solo exhibition in Chicago. Included in the exhibition are a selection of the artist's recent painting and sculpture.

Aten's project, a study in representation and its travel through time, provides a territory to dissect the relationship between process and form. For Aten, painting is not always evolving, but always ending - forever rupturing and querying how the end of the image could appear. It is evident in the unflinching seriality of the work, that Aten's question is philosophical from the beginning. What is the relationship between man and image? And more so - what is an image in the epoch of the post-human?

Israel Aten (American, b. 1986 in Detroit) lives and works in Detroit. Select recent solo exhibitions of Aten's work include *Israel Aten* (2022) at Galerie Natalia Hug in Cologne, *Israel Aten* (2021) at What Pipeline in Detroit, and *RADAR: Blast Valiant* (2016) at LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur and Westfälischer Kunstverein in Münster, DE. Aten's work has also been curated into numerous group exhibitions in past years, some of which include *Israel Aten Quintess Matranga Veit Laurent Kurz* at What Pipeline (2025) in Detroit, *Charismatic Goods* (2024) at CANADA in New York, *Birds of a Feather* (2020) at Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture in Hasselt, Belgium, *Jetzt! Junge Malerei in Deutschland* (2019) at Kunstmuseum Bonn, Museum Wiesbaden, Kunstsammlungen Chemnitz, Museum Gunzenhauser, and Deichtorhallen Hamburg. Aten graduated as Meisterschüler from Düsseldorf's Kunstakademie.

M. L^EBLANC

South gallery (clockwise from left)

Lux, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

98 x 74 in. (248.92 x 187.96 cm)

ISATE0009

Lucent Core, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

109 x 72 in. (276.86 x 182.88 cm)

ISATE0010

Tumulus, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

62 x 42 in. (157.48 x 106.68 cm)

ISATE0004

North gallery (clockwise from left)

Seraph, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

56 x 38 in. (142.24 x 96.52 cm)

ISATE0007

Fortress, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

54 x 40 in. (137.16 x 101.60 cm)

ISATE0006

Eight, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

54 x 40 in. (137.16 x 101.60 cm)

ISATE0005

Antiquity, 2025

wood, plaster, slaked lime, conte, spray paint, charcoal, silver foil, marble dust, silk, rayon, and ink

50 x 21 x 14 in (127 x 53.34 x 35.56 cm)

ISATE0011

Obsidian, 2025

acrylic, spray paint, and charcoal on canvas

98 x 74 in. (248.92 x 187.96 cm)

ISATE0008