

MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exhibition: PAUL PAGK
Inscriptions in a Shade of Color

Location: 88 Eldridge Street, New York, NY 10002

Dates: January 16, 2026 – February 28, 2026

Reception: Friday, January 16, 6 – 8pm

In Paul Pagk's paintings, the aim has never been to produce the sensation of a concept of a natural object. We must stand in front of his paintings, see what there is to see, and accept the invitation to explore the visual sensation in the substance of the painting. Nothing could be less abstract.

—Mériam Korichi

And color is what a painter lives by, so it is the most important thing.

—Kazimir Malevich

Miguel Abreu Gallery is pleased to announce the opening, on Friday, January 16, of Paul Pagk's *Inscriptions in a Shade of Color*, the artist's third one-person exhibition at the gallery.

Comprised of a non-hierarchical mélange of 12 recent paintings and 30 works on paper, the exhibition explores the intimate and dynamic relationship between the artist's slow and majestic painting practice and the speed and immediacy with which he produces his vast output of works on paper.

In Pagk's large-scale paintings, within essentially monochrome and variously treated surfaces of color, appear incisions of quasi-geometric, freehand linear structures. These structures interrupt the expansive flow of color to establish the singular spatio-temporal coordinates of each picture. They invite the viewer into the work's subjective mental architecture.

For the artist, a painting exists as a painting even before it is painted, whereas a sheet of paper is transparent and engages an infinite sense of space, a space in which colors directly produce compositions. Within this fundamental material difference lies the key to Pagk's two-pronged pictorial activity. The painting object, on the one hand, imposes its concrete and immutable limits, which cannot be altered and need to be contended with as the origin of a decidedly contained mode of expression. The sheet of paper supporting the drawing, on the other hand, allows for unforeseeable, immediate transgressions and effects. The latter is an opposite order of seduction from the more nurtured, sober sensation of a painting's singular color and graphic makeup. Perhaps one mode calls for the other in the complete artist sharing with the viewer the balance of his intellectual, technical, and emotional complexity.

This exhibition is dedicated to the memory of Franz Dahlem (1938 - 2025).

Paul Pagk (b. 1962, Crawley, UK) lives and works in New York. Institutional surveys of his work were held at the Centre d'Arts Plastiques, Royan (2022), the Fondation Fernet-Branca, Saint-Louis (2021), and C.R.A.C. Montbéliard (1999), all in France. He had solo exhibitions at Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York (2024, 2023), Thomas Park Gallery, Seoul (2022), Galerie Eric Dupont, Paris (2019, 2016 & 2014), Baukunst Galerie, Cologne (2008), Markus Winter, Berlin (2007), CRG Gallery, New York (1995, 1994), Thread Waxing Space, New York (1993, 1991), and Galerie Jean Fournier, Paris (1987), among others. Recently, his work was included in Drawing Past and Present: Paul Pagk with Master Works from Durer to Matisse, at Joe Project, Montréal, Singing in Unison: Artists Need to Create on the Same Scale That Society Has the Capacity to Destroy, Part 6, curated by Phong H. Bui

at Miguel Abreu Gallery, La Poética del Espacio, Galería Marta Cervera, Madrid, Le Prisme du Féminin: Machines, Ovocytes, Fils, Potions, FRAC Picardie, Amiens, France, and Schema: World As Diagram, curated by Raphael Rubinstein and Heather Bause Rubinstein, Marlborough Gallery, New York. Pagk's work is in the permanent collections of the Fonds National d'Art Contemporain (FNAC), Paris; Les Abattoirs, Musée – Frac Occitanie Toulouse; FRAC Picardie; Springfield Museum of Art, OH; Hood Museum of Art, Dartmouth College, NH; Pinault Collection; and Quenza Collection, among others.

Paul Pagk, a richly illustrated monograph on the artist's work, with essays by Molly Warnock, Raphael Rubinstein, Mériam Korichi, and Adrian Dannatt, was published by Skira in 2025.

For more information or for visuals, please contact the gallery:

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Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10AM to 6PM or by appointment