

MITCHELL-INNES & NASH

EDDIE MARTINEZ: *SALMON EYE*

January 30 – March 5, 2016

534 West 26th Street, New York

Opening Reception: Saturday, January 30, 6-8 pm



NEW YORK, December 21, 2015- **Mitchell-Innes & Nash** is delighted to present the first exhibition of work by Brooklyn-based painter **Eddie Martinez**. *Salmon Eye*, on view in our Chelsea gallery from January 30 through March 5, 2016, will feature roughly eight new paintings. This will be the first exhibition with the artist since he joined the gallery in 2015, and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, including an interview by curator and writer Alison Gingeras.

Martinez is known for his large-scale, energetic canvases in which densely built-up layers of oil and enamel paint are punctuated by elements of collage. Bold and muscular brushstrokes contrast with the faint lines of a spray can and the rich texture of paint squeezed directly from the tube to the canvas. Synthesizing classical formal compositions such as the still-life, portrait and landscape with the speed and 'stream of consciousness' approach of a child's hand, Martinez arrives at a style unmistakably his own.

The works in *Salmon Eye* feature a unique marriage of Martinez's gifts as a draftsman and a painter. Many of the paintings in the exhibition originated as small, sharpie drawings on paper. The drawings are enlarged and silkscreened onto the canvas. Using this black silkscreen as a starting-point, Martinez then builds up shapes and layers, sometimes using the outline of the silkscreen as a formal blueprint, or sometimes disregarding the lines or covering them entirely.

Drawing has always occupied a significant place in Martinez's oeuvre. In the catalog interview with Alison Gingeras, titled *Fresh Kills*, Martinez says, "the drawings and practice of drawing has always been a constant thing and existed on its own laurels. It's the easiest, fastest way for me to chronicle my life. I don't draw in my studio, I draw at home and traveling, so it's really a biographical, journalistic tool". In contrast to his large canvases, the notebook and sharpie pen allow for spontaneous and immediate mark making. Recalling the Surrealist project of 'Automatic Drawing' directly from the unconscious, Martinez's works on paper feel raw and immediate. In transitioning the small-scale works on paper to large-scale canvases, Martinez is able to bring this speed and freedom of movement onto a large scale. Though ostensibly abstract from afar, figurative elements begin to surface – a flower, a banana peel or a woman's torso.

"The way I keep in touch with the world is very gingerly, because the world touches too hard." – Don Van Vliet

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About Eddie Martinez

Eddie Martinez (b. 1977, Groton, Connecticut) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. He has a forthcoming solo exhibition at the Davis Museum and Cultural Center at Wellesley College, MA. He has been a resident at Bauernmarkt, Lenikus Collection, Vienna (2008) and was awarded First Place, Best Group Show in a Commercial Gallery for the Boston-area, by the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) Awards (2007). His work has been included in the following exhibitions: *The Avant-Garde Won't Give Up: COBRA and it's Legacy*, Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA (2015); *New York Painting*, Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, Germany (2015); *The Collection of Stephane Janssen*, Phoenix Art Museum, Phoenix, AZ (2014); *Body Language*, The Saatchi Gallery, London (2012); *New York Minute*, Garage Center For Contemporary Culture, Moscow (2011); *Draw*, Museo de la Ciudad de Mexico, Mexico City (2010); *New York Minute, MACRO FUTURE*, Museum of Contemporary Art, Rome (2009); *Eddie Martinez*, Seomi & Tuus, Seoul, Korea (2009); *Panic Room: Works from the Dakis Joannou Collection*, Deste Foundation Centre for Contemporary Art, Athens (2006).

About Mitchell-Innes & Nash

Founded by Lucy Mitchell-Innes and David Nash, who previously headed the worldwide Contemporary and Impressionist & Modern Art divisions of Sotheby's, Mitchell-Innes & Nash places exemplary contemporary artists within a historical context, revealing a continuity of ideas and aesthetic virtuosity from the Modern era through the present day.

Mitchell-Innes & Nash's renowned exhibition program, in both their Madison Avenue and Chelsea locations, fosters excellence within artistic practice, while forging an informed dialogue between emerging and established internationally recognized artists. From acclaimed surveys of 20th century masters, such as Jean Arp, Anthony Caro, Jay DeFeo, Willem de Kooning, Leon Kossoff, Kenneth Noland, Roy Lichtenstein, and Nicolas de Stael, to solo exhibitions of Sarah Braman, Keltie Ferris, Daniel Lefcourt, William Pope.L, Martha Rosler, and Jessica Stockholder, Mitchell-Innes & Nash has proven expertise in both advancing the careers of emerging artists and maintaining the superior standard set by established artists.

Join the "Eddie Martinez" conversation on Instagram and Twitter by mentioning @miandn and using the #EddieMartinez and hashtag when posting.

Image credit: EDDIE MARTINEZ, [Restartation](#), 2015, Oil, silkscreen ink, enamel and spray paint on canvas, 72 by 108 in.

Listings Information: Mitchell-Innes & Nash is located at 534 West 26th Street in Chelsea and 1018 Madison Avenue on the Upper East Side.

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