

LYONS WIER GALLERY

542 West 24th Street • New York • NY • 10011

JOSHUA MEYER

COURTING INCOHERENCE

February 26 – March 30, 2019

Artist's Reception:

Saturday, March 2nd, 6-8pm

Lyons Wier Gallery
542 West 24th Street
New York, NY 10011

Gallery Hours: Tues - Sat, 11-6pm



Illimitably, 2018, Oil on canvas 30 x 30 / 76 x 76 cm

[New York] Lyons Wier Gallery is pleased to present “**Courting Incoherence**” by **Joshua Meyer**.

The human figures living within Joshua Meyer’s canvases are beautifully unresolved. Thick layers of paint work to articulate fleeting forms, flirting with realism, but ultimately approaching and confronting the limits of our knowledge.

“As I paint, I try to find my way by plunging deeply and directly into the paintings,” Meyer explains. “I revel in the paint and the chaos and I tend to get lost. The only way out is to invent and explore.”

Meyer’s constant making and remaking of the real is undergirded by his remarkable ability to implicate the viewer in the creative process. As each composition’s single, central figure dematerializes from a dense nest of brushstrokes into a pictorial space on the edge of abstraction, the audience is invited to play an active role in reconstructing the progressively open images. But at the heart of each canvas there is also a vulnerability. This gentle silence is the artist’s acknowledgement that our desire to understand those around us can never be fully consummated, that the best we can hope for are halting, humble steps towards genuine comprehension.

“Truth is fragile. I leave my paintings open and a bit unstable because they are actively grappling with the world around them,” Meyer explains, alluding to the tenuousness of knowledge and the swiftness with which our understandings about the world, others, and ourselves can dissipate. “I prefer the absurdity of painting to the absurdity of not painting,” concludes the artist.

“Looking at a Meyer painting means changing your mind about what you see,” according to novelist Allegra Goodman. “Only gradually do I discern the figures in his work. They emerge slowly, rewarding a second and third glance. Coming into their own, they transform the color all around them. As living people do, Meyer’s subjects will reveal themselves, and they will disappear. Look at them up close and they scatter, self-effacing. Back away and they gather force and gravity. Back away a little more. Give Meyer’s figures space, and they’ll possess the room.”

Joshua Meyer was born in 1974 in Lubbock, Texas. The artist studied art at Yale University and The Bezalel Academy of Art and Design in Jerusalem, Israel and has since exhibited across the United States, Asia and Europe, including a solo exhibition, Tohu vaVohu at Hebrew College in Boston, Becoming at the Yale Slifka Center and NYU Bronfman Center, New York, and a retrospective, Seek My Face at UCLA’s Dortort Center in Los Angeles. Meyer is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Pollock-Krasner Foundation Grant, a Sustainable Arts Foundation Award and a Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Joshua Meyer lives and works in Cambridge, MA.