

Theodore

373 Broadway, F10, New York, NY 10013 • Tel 212 966 4324 • theodoreart@gmail.com

Far Horizon

Brian Dupont

Stephen Ellis

Aaron Williams



November 3-December 15, 2023

Opens November 3, 6-8 pm

Gallery hours Thursday–Saturday 12-6 pm

Door/Elevator buzzer #610

Theodore is pleased to present Far Horizon, an exhibition that offers glimpses of the aesthetic and psychological pull of the ocean, as rendered by three artists who are more often considered conceptual abstract painters.

Brian Dupont's practice is focused on the intersection of process, text, and the opposition of structure to colorfield in abstract painting. His current investigation is centered on Herman Melville's novel Moby Dick, and attendant inquiries into 19th century bookbinding, cetology, and modern oceanography. These source materials are transformed via constant layering and revision into paintings that transcend their organizational framework.

Brian Dupont was born in Tacoma, Washington and raised in Minnesota. He studied graphic art and film before receiving a B.F.A. from the Kansas City Art Institute specializing in painting, and his M.F.A. from Cornell University. He has had solo shows in New York City NY; Brooklyn, NY; Hartford Ct; and Kensington, MD. He has participated in group exhibitions in galleries and museums throughout the United States and in Paris, France. He lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

Stephen Ellis has lived and worked in New York City since 1973. He is associated with a group of American abstract artists who rebelled against self-referential formalism and returned abstraction to a more active engagement with the world. Ellis's forty-year involvement in abstract painting underwent a change in 2021 when he initiated a series of seascapes in watercolor, gouache, oil, and etching. He explains:

Among the traditional painting genres, the seascape has fascinated me most because of the simplicity of its format—sky, sea, beach—and how this simplicity lends itself to radically different results in the hands of different artists. With its deceptive simplicity, genre offers an immediate accessibility, as most people recognize the sets of conventions that define landscapes, portraits, and still lifes, even if they are less aware that these conventions are as much the subject of the painting as the images of the things depicted.

Ellis has shown his paintings in the United States and Europe at galleries including Koury Wingate, Emmerich, Obadia (Paris), and Marella (Milan), Ellis's painting and graphic work is represented in many private and public collections in the United States and Europe, including the Brooklyn, Ashmolean, and Fogg Museums. He has received awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters and the Joan Mitchell Foundation.

Ellis has also written art criticism for publications including *The New York Review of Books*, *ArtCritical*, *Modern Painters*, *Parkett* and *Art and America*, where he was an Associate Editor from 1989 to 1992. Living in Cologne in 1986 and '87, Ellis contributed articles to *Art in America* that were among the first in the American press to discuss the work of Gerhard Richter, Martin Kippenberger, and Albert Oehlen. More recently, he has written about Giorgio Morandi, Dan Walsh, Philip Guston and Willem de Kooning.

Since the early 1980s, Ellis has taught art and art history at schools including Cooper Union, SVA, MICA, Hunter College, NYU, Yale University, CalArts, Bard College (MFA), and Harvard University. He is currently the Interim Director of the LeRoy E. Hoffberger School of Painting at MICA (Baltimore).

Aaron Williams' work explores the space between representation and abstraction, primarily through painting. Deconstructing images and using their constituent parts, Williams relinquishes the specific recognizability of photographic source material, leaving the DNA of the images evident in screen printed half-tone dots. Combining these photographic parts with abstract elements, the paintings become amalgams of disparate languages, abstractions created through a process of discovery.

Aaron Williams was born and raised in Rhode Island. He holds an undergraduate degree from the Maine College of Art and completed his MFA graduate studies at Rutgers University. Solo exhibitions include: Max Protetch Gallery, Baumgartner Gallery and Mulherin + Pollard in NYC as well as LaMontagne Gallery in Boston, MA and Guest Spot in Baltimore MD. His most recent solo project was in 2021 with MEN Gallery in NYC. Williams' work has been featured in several group exhibitions throughout the US, including: Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME; Storefront Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Garis & Hahn, NYC; Memphis Social, Memphis, TN; Denny Gallery, NYC; Howard House, Seattle, WA; Cindy Rucker in NYC and Lu Magnus Gallery, NYC. Williams lives and works in Queens, NY.