

# William Monk

## Mount Atom

Keizersgracht 241, Amsterdam  
October 02 – November 14, 2020

GRIMM is proud to announce *Mount Atom*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by William Monk (b. 1977 in Kingston upon Thames, UK). This is the artist's fifth solo exhibition with GRIMM and his fourth solo exhibition in Amsterdam.

*Mount Atom* is the imagined place name which describes Monk's new series of paintings; partly in the clouds, partly extending into the substrata of the earth, its exact coordinates are unknowable. Once one crosses the threshold and enters the unfamiliar realm of this dislocated world, a small mound of earth can easily be fooled for a mountain peeking through the clouds and the monumental and microscopic become the same. In fact, the harder you search for a landmark or familiar sign, the more its substance billows and shrinks away. It could be said that Mount Atom is more a state of mind than a locale.

This body of work was produced when the artist was confined within the interior space of his studio during the recent lock down, and this experience is translated to the scale and intimacy of the paintings. As profiles of the landscape, the paintings mirror some of the qualities of architectural space in the way that slices of sky and sun and land are organized and divided. Monk exercises an economy of means that lends itself to bold visual impressions, where nature's enduring forms are dressed down but full of inner brilliance. Present in equal measure are sinister and sublime forces, a combination that feeds the human imagination with a sense of anticipation toward the unknown.

Monk has contemplated these motifs for nearly ten years now and their appearances continue to morph with each series of paintings he makes. Drifting clouds are recognizable insofar as they are shapes summoned from an expanse of electric colour. Ringed patterns in the earth loop and squirm in playful primordial forms. The smoke of an eternal volcanic flame leads the way up and down the valleys and peaks of the land, as cosmic events flash in the high noon sky. His observations of this world reflect a place which is constantly changing; if there is a path through Mount Atom, it is surely not a straight line.



William Monk | *Atom Rising II* | 2020

### About the artist

William Monk (b. 1977 in Kingston upon Thames, UK) received his BA at Kingston University, London (UK) in 2000 and completed his studies at De Ateliers in Amsterdam (NL) in 2006. Monk was awarded the Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst (Royal Award for Modern Painting) in 2005 (NL) and the Jerwood Contemporary Painters award in 2009 (UK).

Monk's work has been exhibited at Fries Museum, Leeuwarden (NL); Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL); Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam (NL); GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL) and New York (US); Pace, London (UK); James Cohan Gallery, New York, NY (US); Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, CA (US); Norwich University, Norwich (UK); PSL, Leeds (UK) and Summerfield Gallery, Cheltenham, London (UK).

His work can be found in the collections of the Kunstmuseum, The Hague (NL); Akzo Nobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL); David Roberts Art Foundation, London (UK); Fries Museum, Leeuwarden (NL); ING Art Collection, Amsterdam (NL), and in many private collections.

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery manager Jorien de Vries:  
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GRIMM



William Monk | *Atom Rising IV* | 2020

### About the gallery

GRIMM was founded in Amsterdam in 2005. Since its establishment, the gallery has been committed to promoting and supporting emerging and mid-career artists who work in a diverse range of media. Representing over thirty international artists, the gallery has two spaces in Amsterdam, and one in New York. GRIMM is expanding to a new 6,000 square foot gallery space in Tribeca, New York set to open in December 2020.

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