

# Ciarán Murphy

## *Solid Gone*

Keizersgracht 241, Amsterdam  
January 14 – March 5, 2022

GRIMM is proud to announce *Solid Gone*, a solo exhibition of new works by Ciarán Murphy at its Keizersgracht exhibition space in Amsterdam.

The exhibition debuts new paintings by Murphy that reflect the artist's long-standing attempt to grapple with a world completely saturated with pictures that are overbearing yet irresistible, entrancing yet anxiety provoking. These images exert an almost spectral presence, blurring temporalities and indeed our very notions of what constitutes reality.

The title *Solid Gone* references the various paradoxes seen throughout the exhibition. There is a persistent playing with binaries, taking aim at the imperceptible boundary between presence and absence, the familiar and the strange, the dead and the alive, stillness and motion. Certain subjects depicted can be identified, but some are on the verge of slipping back into nothingness. Some are recognizable but somehow made strange, while others are more ambiguous yet strangely familiar. Painted images do not move but these are pictures in motion, still becoming. Thus, present throughout the exhibition is the ambient hum of digital screens, evidence of car journeys, terrestrial terrains, animal classifications, fragmented bodies about to disappear, in motion or floating. Gravity does not quite hold or is in flux.

Ciarán Murphy's work constitutes a quiet, singular inquiry into the possibilities of untangling representation from reality, or, if such an untangling is even possible, grappling with the conundrums that are inherent to representation. The artist's work raises questions about the strange realm we might call subjectivity proper, the zone that is outside or perhaps in excess of symbolic limits, and aims to locate coordinates, in a world that is increasingly lacking in them.



Ciarán Murphy | *Peak (4)* | 2021

### About the artist

Ciarán Murphy (b. 1978 in Mayo, IE) received his BA at the National College of Art & Design, Dublin (IE) in 2003 and his MA in Visual Arts Practices (MAVIS), IADT, Dublin (IE) in 2005. Murphy has a forthcoming solo exhibition at the Butler Gallery in Kilkenny (IE) that opens in November as well as a traveling museum exhibition in 2022 at The Model in Sligo (IE) and The Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin (IE).

Other solo exhibitions include *Ciarán Murphy* at GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL) in 2007; *Ciarán Murphy* at Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago (US) and *Ciarán Murphy* at Cerealart, Philadelphia (US), in 2008; *All That's Air Melts Into Solid* at GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL) in 2010; *The Paradise* at Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (IE) in 2013; *A particular nothing* at GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *A Round Now* at Taymour Grahne, New York (US) in 2014; *Plainsight* at GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *Hundreds of Nature* at GRIMM, New York (US) and *Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily*, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny (IE) in 2021, which will travel to the Model Arts Centre, Sligo (IE) from January 23 to March 6, 2022 and will conclude at the Royal Hibernian Academy in Dublin (IE) from September 9 to October 23, 2022. Murphy has participated in group shows at Gallery Massimo Carassi, Milan (IT) in 2006; Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (IE) and the Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin (IE) in 2011; as well as the Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin (IE) in 2013, and 2017, respectively.

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests, please contact the gallery:  
press@grimmgallery.com +31 (0)20 6752465

Keizersgracht 241 | 54 White Street | Tel +31 (0) 20 6752465  
1016 EA Amsterdam | New York 10013 | info@grimmgallery.com  
GRIMM Fine Art BV | United States | www.grimmgallery.com

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