

The Ferryman

William Monk

April 29 – June 11, 2022

GRIMM
54 White Street
New York

Pace Gallery
510 West 25th Street
New York

May 27 – June 5, 2022

Pace Gallery
68 Park Place



William Monk, *Untitled (study for the ferryman I)*, 2019 – 2021 © William Monk, courtesy Pace Gallery and GRIMM

New York – Pace and GRIMM are pleased to present a three-venue exhibition of William Monk’s new paintings and works on paper across both of their spaces in New York and Pace’s East Hampton gallery. The exhibition at Pace’s 510 West 25th Street space and GRIMM’s 54 White Street gallery will run from April 29 to June 11, concurrent with *Frieze* New York. The East Hampton show will be on view from May 27 to June 5. This expansive presentation will mark Monk’s second exhibition in New York.

Monk is known for his atmospheric, vibrant paintings that feature mysterious and otherworldly forms. His semi-abstract paintings are deeply engaged with the rich tradition and history of the medium. The artist frequently creates works as part of a series, drawing on multifarious sources of inspiration connected to his own experience.

Like his other bodies of work, Monk’s new paintings evade easy categorization and interpretation. As the artist has said, “Only after the work is complete do I become aware of specific past experiences that helped to inform it—perhaps in the same way that a dream picks up on certain conscious moments and twists them.”

On the occasion of the exhibition, Pace Publishing and GRIMM will jointly produce a book featuring an essay by art historian and critic Suzanne Hudson and an interview with the artist conducted by poet John Yau.

GRIMM Exhibition

GRIMM will present new paintings by Monk at its Tribeca gallery. Embodying the exhibition’s meditations on the afterlife, these icon-like paintings possess a meticulous attention to detail and invite an intimate, mantra-like, contemplative experience for the viewer. Depicting Monk’s invented Ferryman, or figure of death, these works radiate with energy. Part 1960s animation, courtesy of Beatles film animator George Dunning, and part Stanley Kubrick vision, Monk’s Rorschach-inspired works suggest a new sensorial field of contemporary painting. Across all the works in this presentation, Monk proposes a contemporary take on psychedelia and a re-enchantment of painting as a ritualistic, active medium.

Pace Gallery Exhibition

Pace’s presentation will spotlight three installations by Monk at its 510 West 25th Street space and a selection of works on paper and small oil paintings by the artist at its East Hampton gallery. This show will be Monk’s first solo exhibition at Pace’s New York gallery.

Engaged with notions of the afterlife, the large-scale paintings on view at the New York gallery focus on the journey from this life into the next.

Directed through the presentation by way of sight lines and narrative cues, visitors to 510 West 25th Street will embark on an experiential and cinematic journey within the gallery spaces. Groupings of paintings in the exhibition serve as transportive constellations, evoking shamanistic qualities in their content and display.

The presentation at Pace in New York will also feature a selection of new tondo paintings by Monk. Hanging suspended in a cloistered space within the gallery, these works reflect the spiritual undertones of the exhibition.

At Pace’s East Hampton space, Monk will showcase a group of works on paper that complement the paintings in his coinciding New York exhibitions, shedding light on another key aspect of his practice. This exhibition will also include a selection of small oil paintings by the artist, drawing further connections between his works on paper and canvas.

William Monk’s (b. 1977, Kingston upon Thames, UK) scenographic works tap into the rich tradition of painting. Monk paints enigmatic and vibrant canvases using starkly divisional compositions. The artist often works in extensive series that gradually evolve over time. His paintings carry irregular intensities of detail, line, foreground, and background.

A sense of repetition breaks down his figuration, creating visual mantras in which the human scale of the work increases this subtlety rather than amplifying the model. This rhythm can be traced throughout Monk’s work, surrendering figurative logic to arrive at something stranger and more powerful. Atmospheric and energetic, Monk’s paintings invite a more direct physical connection, drawing in the space between our inner and outer realms of experience.

William Monk lives and works in New York. He was awarded the Koninklijke Prijs voor Vrije Schilderkunst (Dutch Royal Award for Painting) in 2005 and the Jerwood Contemporary Painters award in 2009. Monk’s work has been exhibited at Pace Gallery, Hong Kong and London; Fries Museum, Leeuwarden, Netherlands; Museum Het Valkhof, Nijmegen, Netherlands; Kunstmuseum, The Hague; Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam; GRIMM, New York and Amsterdam; James Cohan Gallery, New York; Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles; Norwich University, Norwich; PSL, Leeds; and Summerfield Gallery, Cheltenham, London. His work can be found in the collections of the Kunstmuseum, The Hague; HE Art Museum, Foshan, China; AkzoNobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam; Roberts Institute of Art, London; Fries Museum, Leeuwarden; ING Art Collection, Amsterdam; Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Manchester; and in many private collections.

GRIMM is an international contemporary art gallery with locations in Amsterdam (NL) and New York NY (US). Since its establishment in 2005, it has been the gallery’s mission to represent and support emerging and mid-career artists who work in a diverse range of media. Representing over 30 artists, GRIMM has staged the first solo exhibitions in The

Netherlands by mid-career artists such as Daniel Richter. The gallery maintains a keen eye for emerging voices and represents artists such as Arturo Kameya, Claudia Martínez Garay, Louise Giovanelli and Angela Heisch.

The gallery currently resides at Keizersgracht 241 in Amsterdam, a historic canal house in the heart of the city. In 2017, GRIMM expanded into New York with a gallery located on 202 Bowery and in Spring 2021, the gallery relocated to the heart of Tribeca. Located on 54 White Street, the gallery possesses a rich history as the former home of Arc Records, the legendary record archive that once housed 3.5 million records. The Tribeca location encompasses two exhibition spaces: a 4,200 square-foot gallery on the ground floor and a 1,800 square-foot gallery on the lower level.

In addition to the exhibitions that the gallery programs internationally, GRIMM maintains a vigorous publications series that offers further critical insights into its artists' practices. GRIMM is a proud member of the International Galleries Alliance (IGA), Dutch Galleries Association (NGA) and the Gallery Climate Coalition (GCC).

Pace is a leading international art gallery representing some of the most influential contemporary artists and estates from the past century, holding decades-long relationships with Alexander Calder, Jean Dubuffet, Barbara Hepworth, Agnes Martin, Louise Nevelson, and Mark Rothko. Pace enjoys a unique U.S. heritage spanning East and West coasts through its early support of artists central to the Abstract Expressionist and Light and Space movements.

Since its founding by Arne Glimcher in 1960, Pace has developed a distinguished legacy as an artist-first gallery that mounts seminal historical and contemporary exhibitions. Under the current leadership of President and CEO Marc Glimcher, Pace continues to support its artists and share their visionary work with audiences worldwide by remaining at the forefront of innovation. Now in its seventh decade, the gallery advances its mission through a robust global program—comprising exhibitions, artist projects, public installations, institutional collaborations, performances, and interdisciplinary projects. Pace has a legacy in art bookmaking and has published over five hundred titles in close collaboration with artists, with a focus on original scholarship and on introducing new voices to the art historical canon.

The gallery has also spearheaded explorations into the intersection of art and technology through its new business models, exhibition interpretation tools, and representation of artists cultivating advanced studio practices. Pace's presence in Silicon Valley since 2016 has bolstered its longstanding support of experimental practices and digital artmaking. As part of its commitment to innovative, technologically engaged artists within and beyond its program, Pace launched its own dedicated NFT platform, Pace Verso, in November 2021. The gallery's past NFT projects have spotlighted digital works by Glenn Kaino, DRIFT, Lucas Samaras, Simon Denny, Urs Fischer, John Gerrard, and other artists.

Today, Pace has nine locations worldwide including London, Geneva, a strong foothold in Palo Alto, and two galleries in New York—its headquarters at 540 West 25th Street, which welcomed almost 120,000 visitors and programmed 20 shows in its first six months, and an adjacent 8,000 sq. ft. exhibition space at 510 West 25th Street. Pace was one of the first international galleries to establish outposts in Asia, where it operates permanent gallery spaces in Hong Kong and Seoul, as well as an office and viewing room in Beijing. In 2020, Pace opened temporary exhibition spaces in East Hampton and Palm Beach, with continued programming on a seasonal basis.



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