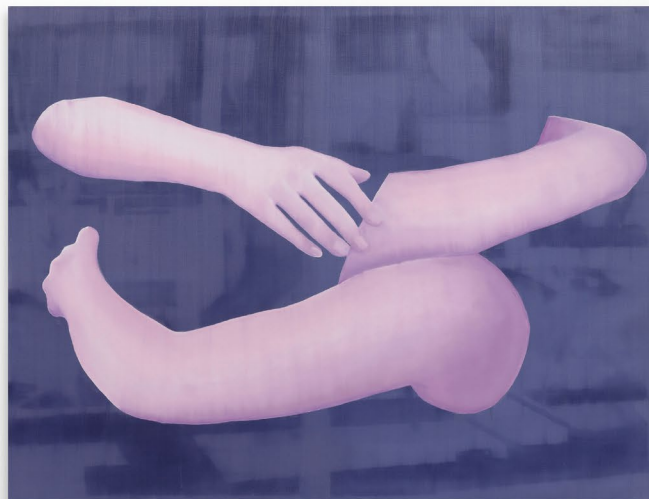


Ciarán Murphy

still, weight, thing

December 15, 2023 – February 17, 2024
GRIMM, 54 White Street, New York, NY (US)



Ciarán Murphy | *windworld*, 2023

GRIMM is pleased to present *still, weight, thing*, an exhibition of new paintings by Irish artist Ciarán Murphy (b. 1978 in Mayo, IE). This is the artist's second solo exhibition in New York and the first in the gallery's Tribeca location. The exhibition is made possible with the kind support of Culture Ireland.

Ciarán Murphy's practice grapples with the saturated, albeit fragmented, state of the image economy and the various paradoxes therein. The title of the exhibition, *still, weight, thing* underscores an interest in the cross-sections of visual language, where alternative meaning hovers just beyond the forefront of understanding. The artist's representations dissolve, reappear, and coalesce in a manner that suggests a very human, cognitive observation, contrasting with the credible, and thus predictable, nature of technological or mechanical image making.

These tensions are explored through various dichotomies within the paintings. The work *sonomus* places its image of a bird atop grey 'noise', exacerbating the push and pull between foreground and background. The painting *windworld* presents a set of arms

that at once rest heavy yet float in isolation, weightless, in the picture plane. Both *portait* and *moon day* hover between absence and presence, lending themselves to another shared commonality across Murphy's work: an evasive nature with subjects that refuse to be captured. Zebras rush into and out of the canvas in *herd* just as the driver in *drive there* appears partially withheld but persists forward.

In the essay titled *Earth's Echo*, published by the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts, Dublin (IE) on the occasion of Murphy's 2022 solo exhibition *Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily*, writer Dan Fox states:

"The word 'dreamlike' would be an easy adjective to reach for. However, that would make me wonder how a physical, tangible thing in the world, such as a painting on a wall, could be compared to the intangible, gossamer blooms of the subconscious. A dream vanishes. A painting remains on the wall." The artist explores "the moment of cognition, the instant that the sense of a thing emerges from a sea of marks and colors."

not for publication

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About the artist

Ciarán Murphy 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.

Solo exhibitions include *this appear*, GRIMM, London (UK); *Solid Gone*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily*, Butler Gallery, Kilkenny; *The Model*, Sligo and Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin (IE); *there, there now*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *Hundreds of Nature*, GRIMM, New York, NY (US); *Plainsight*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *A Round Now*, Taymour Grahne Gallery, New York, NY (US); *The Paradise*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (IE); *All That's Air Melts Into Solid*, GRIMM, Amsterdam (NL); *Ciarán Murphy*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (IE); *March*, Mother's Tankstation, Dublin (IE); *Ciarán Murphy*, Cerealart, Philadelphia, PA (US); and *Ciarán Murphy*, Kavi Gupta Gallery, Chicago, IL (US).

Selected collections: AzkoNobel Art Foundation, Amsterdam (NL); the Arts Council of Ireland, Dublin (IE); Defares Collection, Amsterdam (NL); Irish Museum of Modern Art (IMMA), Dublin (IE); MOVE, Amsterdam (NL); Roberts Institute of Art (RIA), London (UK); and Sanders Collection, Haarlem (NL), among others.



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Detail | *sonomus*, 2023

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