

# Tommy Harrison joins GRIMM

GRIMM is pleased to announce the representation of Manchester, UK-based artist Tommy Harrison (b. 1996, Stockport, UK). GRIMM's first presentation with Harrison will be a solo exhibition of new paintings, titled *Tone Cluster*, on view at the New York location at 54 White Street in Tribeca from 12 May to 30 June, 2023.

Tommy Harrison's work is preoccupied with the process of constructing and collapsing the painted image. Demonstrating a highly sophisticated range of techniques and influences, the artist's work draws on various painterly traditions from the High Renaissance to the present day. Each work is ultimately concerned with the technical journey that is taken to arrive at a composition, built up through an unfolding process over several months, beginning with geometric forms that lead to a range of possible outcomes before being resolved into dark, mysterious landscapes and uncanny interiors.

Harrison begins by drawing directly onto the canvas using tailor's chalk, establishing an initial framework for each composition that becomes quickly discarded. Operating without preconceived logic, the process by which images emerge is circuitous, with the artist responding in stages to his own previous marks and gestures until a direction begins to reveal itself. This provides a blueprint, from which nascent formal and figurative imagery emerges, creating a point of tension from which Harrison can continue to build or dismantle with the application of oil paint. Allowing for a kind of ordered spontaneity to guide his process, as opposed to contrived planning, Harrison slowly negotiates a plurality of possible compositional outcomes, working on multiple canvases simultaneously over weeks and months. His paintings are often anchored by a motif or found subject derived from art history and wider visual culture. Cropped bodies, animals, theatrical curtains, ornate patterns, anonymous landscapes or claustrophobic interiors, are appropriated and deployed as pure form, stripped of narrative or didactic function.

## About the artist

Tommy Harrison is currently studying for an MFA in painting at the Manchester School of Art (2021-23), for which he received in 2020 the Haworth Trust Painting Scholarship. In 2022 he had a solo exhibition titled *Frozen Mid-Melt* at Pipeline Contemporary, London (UK). Harrison's work has been included in group exhibitions at Chapelle de l'Humanité, Paris (FR); Islington Mill, Salford (UK); Elysium Gallery, Swansea (UK) where he was shortlisted for the Beep International Painting Prize; Bankley Gallery, Manchester (UK); and Holden Gallery, Manchester (UK).



Tommy Harrison in his studio, Manchester (UK), 2023 | Photo by Michael Pollard

## About the gallery

GRIMM is an international contemporary art gallery representing over 30 artists, with locations in Amsterdam (NL), New York, NY (US), and London (UK). 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.

In addition to the exhibitions that the gallery programs internationally, GRIMM maintains a publication 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).

## not for publication

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