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Petzel

“Rodney McMillian at Petzel Gallery,” *Émergent Magazine*, April 1, 2020.



Recirculating Goods
Rodney McMillian
Petzel Gallery
February 27- May 2, 2020

Petzel Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of recent paintings by Los Angeles-based artist Rodney McMillian. The exhibition, titled *Recirculating Goods*, will inaugurate Petzel's newly expanded Upper East Side gallery, located at 35 East 67th Street. On view from February 27 to May 2, the show marks McMillian's first exhibition with Petzel, and his first solo show in New York since 2012.

"I'm excited to join Petzel," says McMillian, who is coming on board the gallery's roster this winter. "I've followed the program for many years and I'm looking forward to being a part of the conversations emerging from there."

For his debut at Petzel, McMillian will show paintings which further an ongoing conversation about class and ideals that have informed American landscape painting. These works are made primarily on blankets, sometimes with clear representations of a landscape. The objects, in some ways, point to shared spaces in that the afghans or crocheted objects were handmade and can be found in

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dens, kitchens or bedrooms. They are often personal items which are passed down between generations or given as gifts. However, in this case, some of the objects were purchased from non-profit retail stores. These paintings reflect on the different systems of exchange they exist in, and their relation to the histories—personal, national and art historical—which are evoked.

The show also serves as the unveiling of Petzel's second floor addition to the uptown gallery. Now occupying both the parlor and third floors of the 35 East 67th Street townhouse, the parlor floor will provide an opportunity to enhance the gallery's program with exhibitions catered to the nature of space, while the third floor (which the gallery opened in 2015) will serve mainly as a private viewing room for special exhibitions and secondary market works going forward.

Rodney McMillian lives and works in Los Angeles, CA. McMillian explores the complex and fraught connections between history and contemporary culture, not only as they are expressed in American politics, but also as they are manifest in American modernist art traditions. Aspects of his work negotiates between the body of a political nature and the politic of a bodily nature.

McMillian received an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts in 2002. His installation *In This Land*, 2019 was on view as part of the New Work series at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art from February 9–June 9, 2019. He has a solo exhibition on view at the Underground Museum in Los Angeles, CA through February 16, 2020. He received the Contemporary Austin's first Suzanne Deal Booth Art Prize in 2016, and the resulting solo exhibition *Against a Civic Death* was on view through August 26, 2018. In 2016, McMillian had solo exhibitions at the ICA Philadelphia, the Studio Museum in Harlem, and MoMA PS.1. Each of these exhibitions highlighted a particular set of material and conceptual concerns in McMillian's multivalent practice. Other recent solo exhibitions include *Landscape Paintings*, Aspen Art Museum, CO (2015); *Sentimental Disappointment*, Momentum 14: Rodney McMillian, The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston, MA (2009); *The Kitchen*, New York (2008). McMillian's work was featured in the 2015 Sharjah Biennial, curated by Eungie Joo. His work has also been included in group exhibitions at The National Portrait Gallery, London, MASS MoCA, North Adams, MA; the CCA Wattis Institute, San Francisco, CA; the Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo, Norway; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston; The Institute of Contemporary Art, Philadelphia; the Contemporary Art Museum Houston; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles; the Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago; the UCLA Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art among many others.

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Triple 6: DJT 2019 - 2020 Latex on blanket 37 x 28 inches 94 x 71.1 cm (RM 20/009). Courtesy of the artist and Petzel, New York



Untitled (landscape on blue afghan) 2018 Latex, ink on blanket 48 x 74 inches 121.9 x 188 cm (RM 19/002). Courtesy of the artist and Pretzel, New York

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\$7.99: a blue moon 2019 - 2020 Latex on blanket 47 x 61 inches 119.4 x 154.9 cm (RM 20/008). Courtesy of the artist and Pretzel, New York



Courtesy of the artist at Pretzel, New York

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Untitled (green afghan) 2019 Latex on blanket 82 x 52 x 1 inches 208.3 x 132.1 x 2.5 cm (RM 19/004).
Courtesy of the artist and Pretzel, New York

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Untitled (landscape on blue afghan) 2018 Latex, ink on blanket 48 x 74 inches 121.9 x 188 cm (RM 19/002). Courtesy of the artist and Pretzel, New York



Untitled (setting sun) 2019 Latex on blanket 94 x 87 x 2 inches 238.8 x 221 x 5.1 cm (RM 19/003). Courtesy of the artist and Pretzel, New York

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Laci Belle: Present Day 2019 - 2020 Latex on blanket 48 x 80 inches 121.9 x 203.2 cm (RM 20/007).
Courtesy of the artist and Pretzel, New York

<https://www.emergentmag.com/exhibitions/rodney-mcmillan-at-petzel-gallery>