

MEPAINTSME

PRESS RELEASE

On View: Inside / Out

Dates: March 19 - April 22, 2026

Location: MEPAINTSME



Michael Swaney (b. 1978)

Illegal Broadcaster 2, 2025

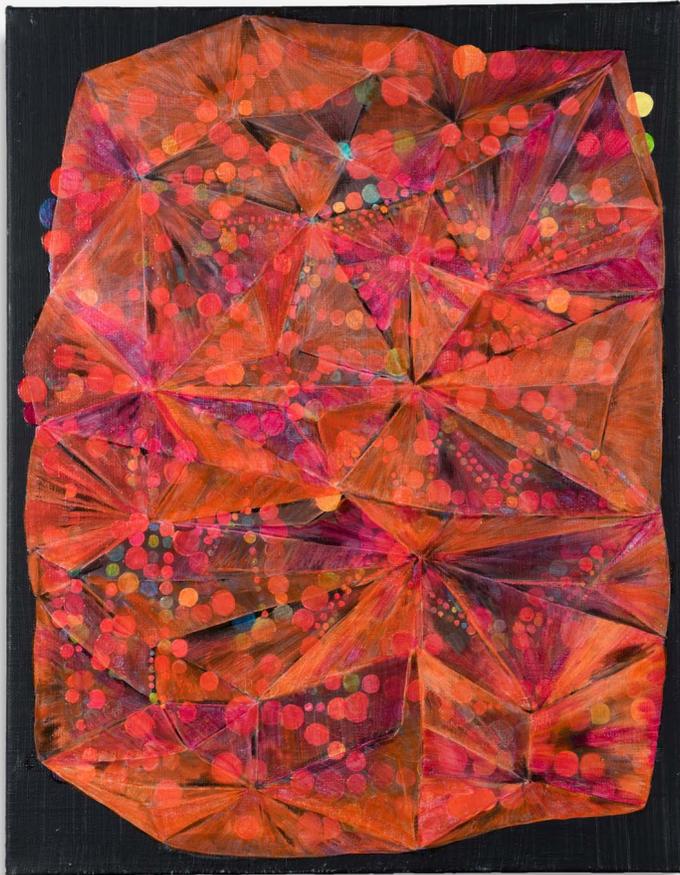
oil on canvas

15¾ x 11¾ in.

40 x 30 cm

MPM Gallery is pleased to announce *Inside / Out*, a group exhibition featuring the work of Max Freund, Sarah Gamble, Geran Knol, William J. O'Brien, and Michael Swaney.

Inside / Out focuses on artists whose work draws attention to the conditions of its own formation, overturning what typically remains concealed to foreground latent infrastructures as visible subjects. In these works, structure is not merely the invisible armature that stabilizes an image; it is an expressive component of the work itself. Lines suggest frameworks rather than outlines; surfaces appear provisional or in flux; and gestures accumulate as traces of decision-making rather than purely descriptive marks. The result is a body of work that acknowledges the artwork as something built, negotiated, and continually unfolding; it is both structure and event—an object that holds within it the indelible traces of its own making.



Sarah Gamble (b. 1974)

Atlas, 2025
oil on canvas
14 x 11 in.

35 x 27 cm
Courtesy of the artist and Fleisher/Ollman,
Philadelphia



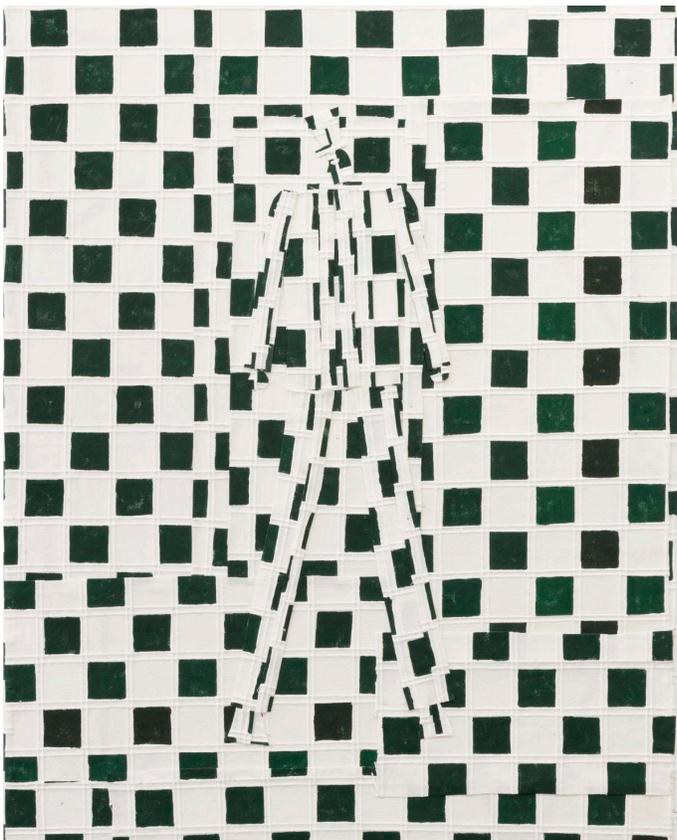
William J. O'Brien (b. 1975)

Ruin Bloom, 2026
colored pencil on paper
12 x 9 in.

30 x 22 cm



Max Freund (b. 1992)
Figur im Park 43 (Antipodes), 2025
oil on wooden panel
16½ x 12¾ x 1½ in.
42 x 32 x 3 cm



Geran Knol (b. 1991)
A Bigger Stance, 2022
fabric mounted to canvas
35¾ x 27½ in.
90 x 70 cm
Courtesy the artist and Proyecto Remé, Spain

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Michael Swaney (b. 1978, Kimberley, BC) is a Canadian artist living and working in Barcelona, Spain. For over two decades, Swaney has been crafting exuberant, whimsical paintings, collages, drawings, mosaics and ceramics that express a childlike vision of the world, paired with baroque detailing. Swaney's work is deeply informed by the raw aesthetic and ethos of Art Brut, referencing figures such as Jean Dubuffet as well as children's art. His visual language aligns closely with Outsider Art, especially through its use of repetition, intuition, horror vacui, and a deliberate disregard for perspective. Drawing inspiration from popular culture, online ephemera, and product branding, Swaney approaches his subjects with equal parts sincerity and humor, building a rich and expansive universe. His mosaic projects inspired by Gaudí and visionary environments were initially conceived as community-based interventions, bringing together collaborators from a wide range of backgrounds, ages, and abilities, highlighting art's unique power to connect and include. In parallel to his studio practice, Swaney has long been committed to researching and promoting non-academic forms of artistic expression, helping to expand the discourse around what constitutes art and who gets to be called an artist. Since 2001, Swaney has exhibited internationally, with solo exhibitions in Barcelona, Madrid, New York, Berlin, Miami, and beyond.

William J. O'Brien (he, him, his) (b. 1975, Eastlake, Ohio) is an artist and professor based in Chicago whose multidisciplinary practice spans ceramics, drawing, sculpture, and installation. He is known for his spirited approach to material, improvisation, and humor, qualities that shape his studio work. O'Brien's work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including solo shows at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, MAD Museum in New York, and the Renaissance Society. He is Professor and Chair of Ceramics at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Geran Knol (b. 1991, The Netherlands) is a multidisciplinary artist from the Netherlands, currently living and working in Antwerp, Belgium. His work consists of drawings, paintings, sound and sculptural work. He is also involved in Park Pardon, a collaboration with Bloeme van Bon. He received a BA in Illustration from ArtEZ Hogeschool voor de Kunsten in Zwolle (the Netherlands) in 2012 and a Master in Visual Arts from Sint Lucas in Antwerp (Belgium) in 2015. His work has been exhibited in several solo and group exhibitions such as *Lucky Charms*, Ballroom Gallery (Brussels, 2022); *With A Silent Drum*, L21 (Palma de Mallorca, 2021); *Plaatjes & Praatjes*, Willem II Fabriek (Den Bosch, 2019); *AppointMENT*, MENT (Ljubljana, 2019); *Unclear Clarity*, ABC Klubhuis (Antwerp, 2017); *Double Bubble*, Inuit (Bologna, 2015); *Illustrative*, Direktorenhaus (Berlin, 2015); and *The Considered Cabinet of Deliberate Thoughts*, with Park Pardon (Antwerp, 2015). He has participated in the art fairs *Art Antwerp* (2022) and *ARCOMadrid* (2021).

Sarah Gamble freely ranges across representation and abstraction, sometimes employing both strategies simultaneously. In one body of work, energy is made visible and characters—some vaguely human, others more animal—co-exist in unsettling environments. In another, Gamble presents us with what appears to be both the firing of our brain's neural pathways (inner space) and the expansiveness and cosmic connectivity of celestial bodies (outer space). Recently, she has been concentrating on paintings that feature eyes peering through screens of foliage and constellations of dotted color. Gamble's expressionistic style, the ease with which she works the paint, and her willingness to experiment with media, foster the creation of un-knowable spaces, and otherworldly moods.

Gamble has had solo exhibitions at Philadelphia venues including Fleisher/Ollman, Moore College of Art, Bambi Gallery, Pageant, and Fleisher Art Memorial. Other solo shows have taken place at Marcia Wood Gallery, Atlanta, GA; Lump Gallery Project Space, Raleigh, NC; and Jack the Pelican Presents, Brooklyn, NY. Gamble has been included in group exhibitions at venues such as Edward Thorp Gallery, New York, NY; RedLine Art Center, Denver, CO; Roswell Museum and Art Center, Roswell, NM; Bemis Center for

Contemporary Art, Omaha, NE; and Marlin and Regina Miller Gallery, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. Gamble was awarded a Yaddo Residency in 2025, a MacDowell fellowship in 2023, a Pew Fellowship in the Arts in 2009, and completed a yearlong residency at the Roswell Artist-in-Residence Program, New Mexico in 2014. She received her MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and her BFA from the Corcoran Gallery College of Art and Design, Washington, DC.

Max Freund (1992), lives and works in Vienna. Artist Statement: "Painting opens up the possibility of navigating our lives through the hieroglyphs of the world. The observation of the peculiar life of human beings forms the basis of my work, revealing social fragility, dependency, alienation, but also forms of community through personal and collective experiences. Mysterious and emotionally charged pictorial worlds illuminate the quiet mechanisms of our intertwined identities, the feeling of having a body, and its relationship to its surroundings. The traces captured in the paintings reveal forms, imagined spaces with voids, and layered arrangements that, like a kaleidoscope, shift our role between protagonists and peripheral observers."

MPM Gallery is the online exhibition space of independent artist and curator, mepaintsme, who has been recognized for his idiosyncratic approach to curating on the instagram feed @mepaintsme. The gallery aims to source and showcase the best examples of artworks being created today in a string of thematic solo and group exhibitions.

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