



TILTON
GALLERY

Tilton Gallery is pleased to present the first New York solo exhibition of paintings by Matthew Fischer. A reception for the artist will be held on Thursday, October 6th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

Fischer uses primarily oils, in lush transparent colors, often laid over acrylic washes, on both canvas and wood panels. While there are two different support sizes in the exhibition, a ‘head space’ size, according to Fischer, which is roughly 25 x 22 inches, and a ‘body space’ size, 70 x 63 inches, both formats retain the same proportion. The change in scale allows for changes in gesture and force and demands different viewer vantage points.

The paintings in this exhibition represent a clear and intentional effort to place both the painter and the viewer directly in front of the canvas, as if held by the pictorial space of the painting. The pictures are at once completely abstract, and also pictorial in a representational sense. Forms take on volume in space, atmosphere enacts the play of figure/ground relationships, and the eye is invited to enter the picture and “feel pictorial space.” In this sense, the paintings are not non-objective. They act out natural and physical phenomena of this world.

At once translucent and drawing attention to the surface, pulling the viewer into deep space and holding one at a distance, Fischer’s imaginary space grips and seduces. As Fischer says, “I’m trying to make pictures that come out of a generative and imaginative system that I think might be like nature – using recurring patterns and motifs that change and spin off of each other with the potential for open-ended variations. At the same time, I want to make pictures that reflect how I feel in my own body on Earth, as it reacts to light, atmosphere and forms in the natural world around it – and the longing I feel when paying attention to it.”

Matthew Fischer was born in 1981 and raised in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He received his BFA from the University of Wisconsin – River Falls in 2005 and his MFA from Columbia University School of the Arts in 2011.