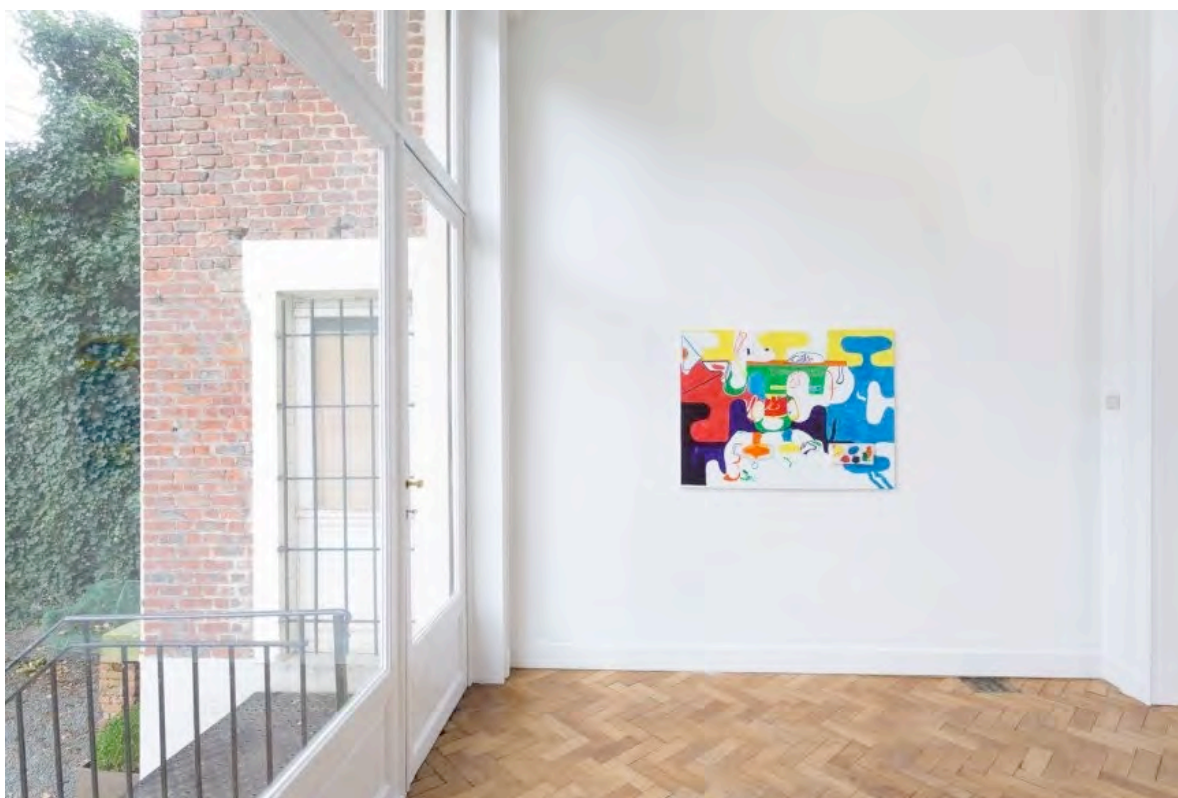


GLADSTONE GALLERY

Lorenzo Pereira, "Michael Williams comes to Brussels with Gladstone Gallery," *Widewalls*,
March, 2016

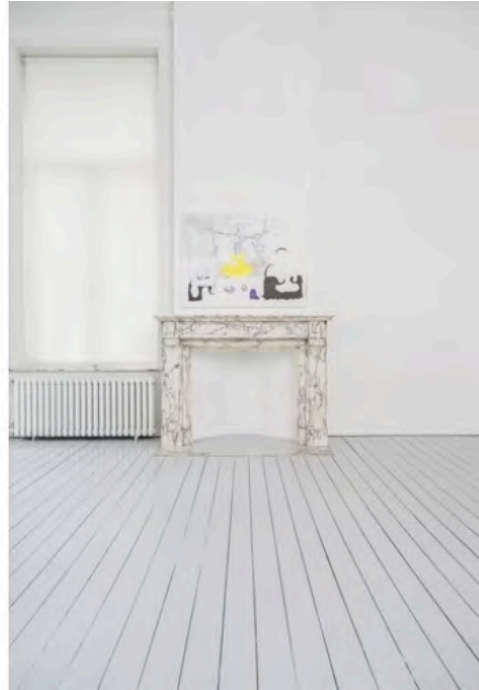
WIDEWALLS

MICHAEL WILLIAMS COMES TO BRUSSELS WITH GLADSTONE GALLERY



Great American contemporary artist Michael Williams continues with successful presentations of his art at some of the finest art spaces in the world. In 2015, we could see his work at Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montreal, Montreal, Canada during the exhibition entitled *Michael Williams: Yard Salsa*, but also at Gallery Met in New York during the exhibition *Michael Williams: Tribal Frog Tattoo*. Now, the globally renowned Gladstone Gallery organizes Michael Williams exhibition in Brussels, with a suite of new paintings, featuring further explorations of his puzzle paintings series and iterations of a figure featured in recent work. The exhibition opened a couple of days ago, so be sure not to miss it!

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Michael Williams, March 11 – April 15, 2016. Installation View Gladstone Gallery, Brussels. Courtesy: Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels. Photo: David Regen

The Art of Michael Williams

Michael Williams was born in 1978 in Pennsylvania and lives and works in Los Angeles. His work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at venues including Musée des Beaux-Arts de Montreal, Montreal, Canada and Gallery Met, New York, and a number of group exhibitions at notable institutions including secession, Vienna; Museum of Modern Art, New York; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, Texas; Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio; Ballroom Marfa, Marfa, Texas; and the Garage Center for Contemporary Culture, Moscow. In his art, Williams combines elements of Surrealism, Abstraction, Expressionism and psychedelia in his paintings. Williams is known for his richly colored, multi-layered paintings employing a range of techniques including airbrush, oil paint, and inkjet printing. Often juxtaposing figurative and abstract forms, the artist persistently examines the nature, boundaries, and tensions of the painted surface.

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Michael Williams – Not Yet Titled (3), 2016. Oil, acrylic, pencil and collage on linen. 36 x 48 inches (91.4 x 121.9 cm).
Copyright Michael Williams. Courtesy Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels

Merging Different Art Movements

In these works, a familiar computer software prompt repeatedly obscures the same figure. Williams transformed this convergence of computer screen layers into a starting point for further exploration. From a carefully established procedural framework of drawing, cutting and redrawing monotypes, Williams then distorts, subverts, and obscures the image through painterly experimentation and layering. The digital native source image, traditional printmaking, and improvisational painted gesture collide in ways that are both casual and exacting, humorous and serious, and untethered from any fixed perspective. For Williams, the process of cutting and redrawing is a way to generate abstract images from representational imagery. Willfully obscuring optical boundaries, Williams's paintings make room for the anthropomorphic, amoebic, hallucinogenic, and the commonplace to coalesce into what George Pendle describes as an "intense polychromatic miasma." The viewer is left to sort through the miasma to find the demarcations that the eye craves; to fully perceive the flux of forms, colors,

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and scraps of language in Williams's painting is to wander through and across hazy layers and find an image both constructed and deconstructing itself.



Michael Williams, March 11 – April 15, 2016. Installation View Gladstone Gallery, Brussels. Courtesy: Gladstone Gallery, New York and Brussels. Photo: David Regen

Michael Williams Exhibition at Gladstone Gallery in Brussels

Simultaneously with Michael Williams exhibition at Gladstone Gallery Brussels space, in the Gallery's New York address there is exhibition of Phillippe Parreno entitled *IF THIS THEN ELSE*, a time based-exhibition and a conditional construct. When it comes to the show featuring works by Michael Williams, the exhibition opened on March 11, 2016. This is the gallery's first exhibition with Michael Williams. It will be on view until April 15, 2016 at Gladstone Gallery in Brussels, Belgium.