

**Kerlin Gallery**

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**Merlin James**

## **MERLIN JAMES**

b.1960, Cardiff, Wales.

**‘Night’, like some other related new paintings by James, is painted with ash. This is a novel material for the artist, though he frequently employs other unusual substances such as hair and dust. The painting depicts the house where the artist lives and works, and the river, trees and bridge that are close to it. Such elements have appeared in his pictures from the beginning – the gable-end of a building, tall, isolated trees, stretches of water, bridges of various kinds. They function openly and metaphorically, as much as, or more than ‘autobiographical’ references. Other recent works are apparently more abstract, though also often with landscape associations, and atmospheres that might suggest poetic sentiment. Figures also appear, or half appear. Distinctive, integral picture frames continue to characterise James’s work, as does his experimentation with transparent painting surfaces, and the ambiguous deepening or dissolving of the picture plane. His latest paintings are at once among his most personal and most aesthetically speculative.**

Solo exhibitions include Long Game, OCT Boxes Museum, Shunde & OCT Art and Design Gallery, Shenzhen (both China, 2018); Long Game, CCA Glasgow (2016); Freestyle, Kunstverein Freiburg, Germany (2014); Merlin James, Parasol Unit, London; Signal Box, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (both 2013); and Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin (2012, 2015). In 2007 James represented Wales at the 52nd Venice Biennale. Recent group exhibitions include Slow Painting, Leeds Art Gallery, UK (2019), The Levinsky Gallery, University of Plymouth, UK (2020); Painting Amongst Other Things, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (2018).

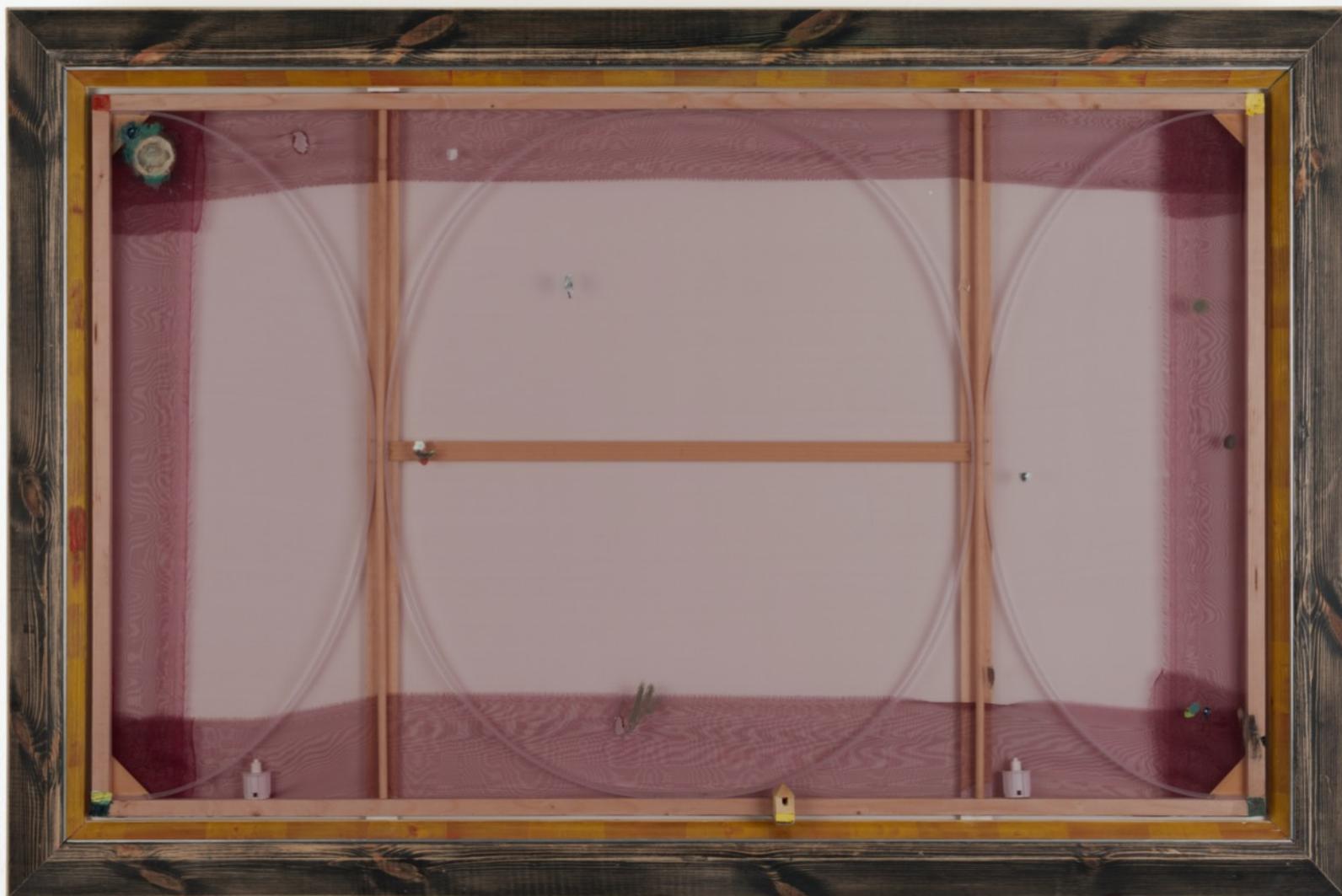


Night  
2020

Ashes on cotton duck

67 x 122.5 cm / 26.4 x 48.2 in framed

MJ56720



Observe  
2020

Mixed materials

98.5 x 148 x 5 cm / 38.8 x 58.3 x 2 in framed

MJ56820



Houses, Trees  
2020

Mixed materials

98 x 147 x 5 cm / 38.6 x 57.9 x 2 in framed

MJ56820



Frame and Building Painting  
2020  
Mixed materials  
75.5 x 84 x 4 cm / 29.7 x 33.1 x 1.6 in framed  
MJ56820



Untitled  
2020  
Ashes on scrim  
66 x 93.5 x 1.5 cm / 26 x 36.8 x .6 in  
MJ56320



Bridge  
2020

Mixed materials

106.5 x 96.5 x 4 cm / 41.9 x 38 x 1.6 in framed

MJ56320



By Water  
2008  
acrylic and mixed media  
55 x 96 cm / 21.7 x 37.8 in  
MJ19208



Tree and Shapes  
2007-2011  
acrylic on canvas  
68.5 x 39 cm / 27 x 15.4 in  
MJ27007-11



CN  
2008  
acrylic on canvas  
55 x 83 cm / 21.7 x 32.7 in  
MJ21208

**MERLIN JAMES**

b. Cardiff, 1960

Lives and works in Glasgow, Scotland

**CURRENT & FORTHCOMING EXHIBITIONS**

2020 Double-M, Double-X, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland. (Group Show)

**SOLO EXHIBITIONS**

- 2019 *Untitled (Sex)*, SELECT, Berlin, Germany.
- 2018 *A View of the Clyde River at Glasgow*, A-M-G5, Glasgow, UK.  
*Long Game*, OCT Boxes Art Museum, Shunde, China; OCT Art & Design Gallery, Shenzhen, China.
- 2017 Raucci e Santamaria, Milan, Italy.
- 2016 *Paintings for Persons*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co, New York, USA.  
*To the Present*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
*Long Game*, CCA, Glasgow, UK.
- 2015 *Meeting at the Building*, Gallery 2, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
*Genre Paintings*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, USA.
- 2014 *Freestyle*, Kunstverein Freiberg, Germany.  
*Paintings, Drawings, Prints*, Aanant & Zoo, Berlin, Germany.  
*In Penombra*, Raucci/Santamaria, Naples, Italy.
- 2013 *Signal Box*, KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin, Germany.  
*Sex Paintings*, OHIO, Glasgow, UK.  
*Merlin James*, Parasol Unit, London, UK.  
*Painting*, Galerie les Filles du Calvaire, Paris, France.
- 2012 *In the Gallery*, Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
*New Paintings*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2011 Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, USA.
- 2010 *Frame Paintings*, Mummery + Schnelle, London, UK.
- 2008 *Birds, Places, Other Things*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
*Paintings*, Mummery + Schnelle, London, UK.
- 2007 *Painting to Painting*, New York Studio School, New York, NY, USA.  
*Merlin James: Painting*, Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Brussels, Belgium.  
Galerie les Filles du Calvaire, Paris, France.
- 2006 *Paintings of Buildings*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, USA.  
Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, UK.
- 2005 *Sea*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, USA.
- 2004 *Easel Painting*, Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, UK, travelling to Bay Art, Cardiff, UK.  
Vitamin Arte Contemporanea, Turin, Italy.
- 2003 *The Middle Distance*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
*New Compositions*, Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, UK.  
Brent Sikkema, New York, NY, USA.
- 2002 *Pictures*, Brent Sikkema Gallery, New York, NY, USA.  
*Pictures*, Galleria Ceribelli, Bergamo, Italy.  
*New Paintings 2002*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.
- 2001 Galerie Yves Hoffmann, Paris, France.  
Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, UK.
- 1998 *Painting*, Wooster Gardens, New York, NY, USA.
- 1997 Francis Graham Dixon, London, UK.  
Andrew Grant Gallery, Edinburgh College of Art, UK.  
*Critical Pictures*, Andrew Grant Gallery, Edinburgh College of Art, UK..  
Wooster Gardens, New York, NY, USA.
- 1996 Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, UK.  
*Critical Pictures*, Picker Gallery, Kingston University, Kingston upon Thames, UK.
- 1995 *Poussin's Phocion*, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, UK.

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

- 2020 *Slow Painting*, The Levinsky Gallery, Plymouth, UK.
- 2019 *Slow Painting*, Leeds Art Gallery, Leeds, UK.  
*Soto Voce*, Bortola Gallery, NYC, USA.  
*last day of May*, Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland.  
*Uptown Painting*, Peter Freeman Gallery, New York, USA.
- 2018 *Salon 007*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.  
*Painting Amongst Other Things*, Drill Hall Gallery, Australian National University, Canberra.
- 2017 *La vita Materiale*, The Goma, Madrid, Spain.  
*Park*, Holly's Gallery, Guangzhou & Hong Kong (co-presented by Kerlin Gallery)  
*Il Paesaggio Invisible*, Rauchi e Santamaria, Naples, Italy.
- 2016 *The Public Body .01*, Artspace, Sydney, Australia.  
*Cuts, Shapes, Breaks and Scrapes*, Seventeen Gallery, London, UK.  
*Ghosts of Other Stories*, The Model, Sligo, Ireland.  
*Towards Night*, Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, UK.
- 2015 *Out There, Thataway*, CCA Derry, Derry, Northern Ireland.  
*basal*, Aanant & Zoo, Berlin, Germany.  
*Vital Signs: 12 London Artists*, Clifford Chance, London, UK.
- 2013 *The Parergon and The Gutter*, David Risley Gallery, Copenhagen, Denmark.  
*The Room and its Inhabitants*, Susan Hobbs Gallery, Toronto, ON, Canada.  
*Inevitable Figuration*, Museo Pecci, Prato, Italy.  
*Gallery 400*, University of Illinois, Chicago, IL, USA.  
*Picture Show*, Gallery of Modern Art, Glasgow, UK.  
*SS Blue Jacket*, KARST, Plymouth UK.
- 2012 *A Bucolic Frolic*, Mummery+Schnelle, London, UK.  
*One Night Stand*, Goat Major Projects, Cardiff, Wales; Trade Gallery, Nottingham, UK.  
*The Big Picture*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY, USA.  
*Interior Visions*, Colby College Art Gallery, Waterville, ME, USA.  
*The Man Don't Give...*, Motorcade/Flash Parade, Bristol, UK.  
*Les Misérables*, OHIO, Glasgow, UK.  
*Broken/Window/Plane*, curated by John Yau, Tracy Williams Gallery, New York, USA.
- 2011 Royal Hibernian Academy, Dublin, Ireland.  
*Between My Head and My Hand...*, PNCA Feldman Gallery, Portland, OR, USA.  
White Columns Benefit Auction, New York, NY, USA.
- 2010 *The Beholder's Share*, Mummery+Schnelle, London, UK.  
*Merlin James, Andrew Taylor, Tom Varley*, Southside Studios, Glasgow, UK.  
*Long, Long Gone*, Leo Koenig, New York, NY, USA.  
*Self-Consciousness*, Veneklasen Werner, Berlin, Germany.  
*Le Tableau*, Cheim & Read, New York, NY, USA.  
*Building on a Cliff – Merlin James, Matt Connors, Arturo Herera*, Sikkema Jenkins, New York, USA.
- 2009 *Doppo Gobbo*, Fuxia Gallery, Milan, Italy.  
*New Ideas in Abstraction*, APSU, Clarkesville, Tennessee, USA.  
*Nudes*, Galeria Fortes Vilaça, Sao Paolo, Brazil.  
*Turps: Part Two*, Galleria Marabini, Bologna, Italy.
- 2008 *21: Selections of Contemporary Art*, Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY, USA.
- 2007 *Mutineer*, Atelierhaus Mengerziele, Berlin, Germany.  
*Things We Lost in the Fire*, Leicester City Art Gallery, UK.  
*An Eclectic Eye*, Tucson Museum of Art, Arizona, USA.  
*And so it goes*, Welsh Pavilion, 52nd Venice Biennale, Italy, travelling to Chapter Gallery, Cardiff, UK.

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS CONTD.

- 2005 *Short Stories About Painting*, curated by Jeffrey Dennis, Michael Richardson Contemporary Art, London, UK.  
*Seeing Things*, curated by Davide Ferri, Galleria Fabjbasaglia, Rimini, Italy.
- 2006 *Things We Lost in the Fire*, Transition Gallery, London, UK.  
*Faces of a Collection*, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany.  
*(Re)markable*, Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, UK.  
*Interested Painters*, Gallery 400, Chicago, IL, USA.
- 2004 *Direct Painting*, Kunsthalle Mannheim, Germany.  
*The Five Corners of Painting*, curated by Jane Lee, artconnexion, Lille, France.  
*On the Edge of Real*, Whitechapel Art Gallery, London, UK.  
*No Particular Place to Go*, curated by Mary McLean, APT Gallery, London, UK.  
*Contemporary Painting*, curated by Alex Katz, Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, ME, USA.  
*The Edge of the Real*, Whitechapel Gallery, London, UK.  
*Sidelonging*, crated by Andreas Leventis, 117 Commercial Street, London, UK.  
*Les Cinq Coins De Peinture*, artconnexion, Lille, France.
- 2003 *Dirty Picture Show*, The Approach Gallery, London.  
*Yes! I am long way from home*, The Nunnery Gallery, London, UK, travelling to Wolverhampton Art Gallery, UK; Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland, UK; The Herbert Read Gallery, Canterbury, UK.  
*The Lazarus Effect*, curated by Helena Kontova, Luca Beatrice and Lauri Firstenberg, Prague Biennale, Czech Republic.
- 2002 *Closer*, curated by Peter Jones, Standpoint Gallery, London, UK.  
*Landscape*, Saatchi Gallery, London, UK.
- 2001 *Painters Painting*, The Approach, London, UK.
- 2000 *Not Enough*, Velan Centre for Contemporary Art, Turin, Italy.  
Stephen Lacy Gallery, London, UK  
*Regrouping*, The Nunnery, London, UK.  
Brent Sikkema, New York, NY, USA.  
*River Deep Mountain High*, curated by Kelly Taylor, Cooper Gallery, University of Dundee, Scotland.
- 1999 *Another Country: The Constructed Landscape*, Brent Sikkema Gallery and Lawrence Rubin Greenberg Van Doren, New York, NY, USA.  
*Don't Smoke in My House*, Vicki Tarrant, London, UK.  
Art First, London, UK.  
EAST International, selected by Peter Doig, Norwich Gallery, Norwich, UK.  
Stephen Lacy Gallery, London, UK.  
*River Deep Mountain High*, Gallery Westland Place, London, UK; travelling to Cooper Gallery, University of Dundee (2000), Dundee, UK;  
Thomas Korzelius Gallery, New York, USA.
- 1998 *Raum*, Kunstlerhaus Vienna, Austria.  
*Critical Faculty*, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA.  
*Painting*, Wooster Gardens, New York, NY, USA.
- 1996 Connaught Brown, London.  
Whitechapel Open, Whitechapel Gallery, London.
- 1995 Royal College of Art, London, UK.
- 1994 Kapil Jariwala Gallery, London, UK.
- 1993 *Quoi de Neuf?*, Delsol et Innocenzi, Paris, France.
- 1990 Albermarle Gallery, London, UK.

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