

CAMERON MARTIN

NEW CONGRESS

November 29, 2018 – January 13, 2019

Reception; Wednesday, November 28, 2018, 6-8pm

James Fuentes is pleased to present “New Congress,” an exhibition of paintings by Brooklyn-based artist Cameron Martin. Known for his work focused on contemporary imaging of nature, the artist’s debut exhibition with the gallery marks the first solo show in New York of the non-objective paintings he has been making for the last four years.

The work in “New Congress” poses a counterpoint to endgame painting, engaging play while skirting familiar tropes of expression. Complicating the relationship between the handmade and the mechanical, these often inscrutably produced works embrace difference as a function of their dynamic contribution to the larger group. By employing resonant color and articulated forms that toggle between stability and optical animation, each painting is meant to introduce distinct perceptual additions to the expanded framework of the exhibition. Martin has said, “I think of the paintings operating the way a community ideally could, with strong individuals working in tandem, finding affinities but also antagonizing each other in order to produce something larger.” Overlapping scrim, striations, transparencies, patterns and geometries inhabit the often facture-less surfaces of Martin’s meticulous canvases. While the paintings might most easily be described as “abstract” despite being born out of a desire to work against what he had previously taken for granted when making a painting, the new work bears traces of Martin’s longstanding interest in the conventions of picturing. As critic Suzanne Hudson wrote in a recent catalogue essay, Martin’s new paintings contain a “contextualizing insistence on the representational act before the representation.” With assiduous negotiation between design, illusionism and depiction, the paintings draw from the hybridized nature of current image production, aiming to collapse categorical distinctions and promote generative exchange.

Cameron Martin was born in Seattle in 1970. He was educated at Brown University and the Whitney Independent Study Program. He has received awards including a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, a Joan Mitchell Foundation Fellowship, and a Pollock Krasner Award. Solo exhibitions of his work have been held at the University Art Museum at SUNY Albany, the Saint Louis Art Museum, and the Philbrook Museum in Tulsa, as well as galleries internationally. His work has been presented in group exhibitions at the Tel Aviv Museum, Columbus Museum of Art, Musée Marmottan, and the Whitney Biennial. His work is included in museum collections, including the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the Seattle Art Museum, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. He is co-chair of the painting department in the MFA Program at Bard College, New York.

For further information, please contact James Fuentes at james@jamesfuentes.com or Katrin Lewinsky at kl@jamesfuentes.com.