

Urs Fischer
Scratch & Sniff

62 Kingly Street London W1
 12 September – 26 October 2024
 Private view: Thursday 12 September, 6-8pm

This exhibition, the gallery's twelfth solo show with Urs Fischer since the first in 2003, is a compendium of the artist's playful experiments in painting and installation. The paintings in *Scratch & Sniff* present an accumulative exercise in the physical building of images, engaging different applications of painting, photography and ink-jet printing layered together to create a heightened spatial dimension with teasingly textured and raised surfaces. The images they conjure or appropriate (as both simultaneously occur within each painting) can be figurative or fragmented: there are oblique figures, pop compilations and abstracted landscapes. Like a theatre of flat stage sets, each is built from front to back or from back to front: they float between flatness and depth, between digital and analogue, alternating physical gesture and on-screen experience.

One of the paintings, *Meditations* (2024), captures a screengrab of an Amazon search for books on politics today. This digital skin, hovering above the painted background presents as a kind of flag, reflecting the anxiety of our time in loud, enhanced, powered-up colour. Within the context of impatient contemporary living, this work – and the overall busy experience of the exhibition environment – reflects our urgent computation of the mass of visual images we are invited, or forced, to consume every day.



The floor of the entire gallery is laid in vinyl printed with an image of Fischer's LA studio flooring – paint splattered and smeared, the traces of ink and footprints present as a stage for the paintings, placing the viewer within the studio in energised real time, and alluding to previous wallpaper installations that reconfigured artworks in an alternative physical reality. In Fischer's 2009 *Marguerite de Ponty* exhibition at the New Museum, New York, the artist photographed and reprinted every inch of the building's architecture, reworking it to create a wallpaper that covered the same ceiling and walls, playing with the fundamentals of art and space to form a maddening simulation. In *Scratch and Sniff* Fischer returns his audience's attention to the process of art-making, chronologising the development of his practice by bringing together printing, gestured painting, photography, and collage, while the floor emulates the very place such works and ideas were conceived. Presented in this way, linking image to process and to the artist's history, allows for nostalgia about the development of picture-making at specific moments in Fischer's practice, and is reflected in a new book of his latest paintings.

Fischer offers *Scratch & Sniff*, a free book made for the exhibition, in which a cacophony of gesture and image are printed in scratch-off form, extending his invitation to participate and play beyond the gallery space.

Urs Fischer (b. Switzerland, 1973) lives in New York. Recent major exhibitions include *Flea Circus*, Sadie Coles HQ, London (2023); *PLAY*, Tel Aviv Museum of Art, Tel Aviv (2022); *Lovers*, Museo Jumex, Mexico City (2022); *The Intelligence of Nature*, Sadie Coles HQ, London (2021); *Bourse de Commerce: Pinault Collection*, Paris (2021); *Aïshti Foundation*, Beirut (2020); *ERROR*, The Brant Foundation, Greenwich (2019); *soft*, Sadie Coles HQ, London (2018); *Big Clay #4 and Two Tuscan Men*, Piazza della Signoria, Florence (2017); *The Public & the Private*, Legion of Honor, San Francisco (2017); *The Kiss*, Sadie Coles HQ, London (2017); *Small Axe*, Garage Museum of Contemporary Art, Moscow (2016); *MOCA*, Los Angeles (2013); *Madame Fisscher*, Palazzo Grassi, Venice (2012); and *Skinny Sunrise*, Kunsthalle Wien, Vienna (2012). Recent group exhibitions include *Day for Night: New American Realism*, National Gallery of Ancient Art, Rome (2024); *JANUS*, Palazzo Diedo, Berggruen Arts & Culture, Venice (2024); *SHINE ON*, Sadie Coles HQ, London (2024); *REPEATER*, Sadie Coles HQ, London (2022); *The Tenth Anniversary*, ARTFLYER, Athens (2021); *Anti-Structure*, Deste Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens (2021); *The Paradox of Stillness: Art, Object, and Performance*, Walker Art Center, Minneapolis (2021); *Nature of Robotics: An Expanded Field*, EPFL ArtLab École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (2021); *Vampiros: La evolución del mito (Vampires: The Evolution of the Myth)*, CaixaForum Barcelona, Fundació Bancària "la Caixa" (2020); *Amuse-Bouche: The Taste of Art*, Museum Tinguely, Basel (2020); and *La rivoluzione siamo noi. Collezionismo italiano contemporaneo*, XNL Piacenza Contemporanea (2020). In 2022, a major permanent public commission, entitled *L'arc*, was unveiled at Station F in Paris.

For further information please contact the gallery at +44 (0)20 7493 8611 or press@sadiecoles.com.

www.sadiecoles.com

62 Kingly Street London W1B 5QN
 1 Davies Street London W1K 3DB
 8 Bury Street London SW1Y 6AB
 T +44 [0] 20 7493 8611

Reg in England no 3211376
 Vat no 690 6671 06