



James Ulmer: Outside, Inside
May 14 - June 25, 2022
The Pit Los Angeles

The Pit is pleased to present “Outside, Inside” New York-based artist James Ulmer’s first solo exhibition with the gallery. The exhibition will be on view at the gallery’s Los Angeles location from May 14 to June 25 with an opening reception on Saturday May 14 from 4-7pm.

The spirited pigments in Ulmer’s signature material of flashe paint adorn large canvases with a matte, velvety finish that mutes the initial fanciful inclinations into something more pragmatic and unexpected. There’s a push and pull to these works. Ulmer draws from traditional themes of nature, domesticity, and human connection, but turns them on their heads. He plays in the grooves between positive and negative space, tap dancing at the intersection of “straightforward” and surreal. There’s no shying away from dimensionality in these paintings—the flat, reductive figures transform into something of a diorama when set against natural landscapes that often contain charming surprises. In one piece, a couple embraces alone in the foreground of a modest seaside setting, alone save for a sailboat passing through and the shadow of a bird flying overhead. Until, that is, you spot the erupting volcano in the background. Ulmer makes note of “picturesque postcard moments” with their minimalism and uncomplicated depictions of idyllic scenes, but the subtle sparks of ambiguity that permeate his work—when it’s not a volcano, it’s a shadowy figure in a doorway or a nude person censored by a checkered towel-like rectangle—mark a departure from the ordinary.

It’s easy to take for granted the circle of a sun—usually in a restrained pink, orange or red—that’s a constant in the majority of Ulmer’s paintings. But it grounds them. In fact each shadow, bird, and figure has a compositional purpose and, together, they prove the artist to be something of an alchemist, with a knack for spinning the quotidian effects of the everyday into a particular magic

For more information please email info@the-pit.la









James Ulmer
Field Trip, 2022
Flashe on canvas
72 x 60 in.
182.9 x 152.4 cm.
JU0014



James Ulmer
Passing by, 2022
Flashe on canvas
78 x 65 in.
198.1 x 165.1 cm.
JU0012



James Ulmer
There Once Was, 2022
Flashe on canvas
72 x 60 in.
182.9 x 152.4 cm.
JU0015



James Ulmer
Mellowness, 2022
Flashe on canvas
60 x 50 in.
152.4 x 127 cm.
JU0016



James Ulmer
Dem Wanderer, 2022
Flashe on canvas
60 x 50 in.
152.4 x 127 cm.
JU0009



James Ulmer
Heart of Love, 2022
Flashe on canvas
48 x 40 in.
121.9 x 101.6 cm.
JU0011



James Ulmer
My Friend, 2022
Flashe on canvas
48 x 40 in.
121.9 x 101.6 cm.
JU0008



James Ulmer
Bird in a Cage, 2022
Flashe on canvas
50 x 60 in.
127 x 152.4 cm.
JU0013
SOLD



James Ulmer
Beyond our Reach, 2022
Flashe on canvas
60 x 50 in.
152.4 x 127 cm.
JU0006
SOLD



James Ulmer
Another Room, 2022
Flashe on canvas
36 x 30 in.
91.4 x 76.2 cm.
JU0007
SOLD



James Ulmer
Home Entertainment , 2022
Flashe on canvas
30 x 36 in.
76.2 x 91.4 cm.
JU0017
SOLD