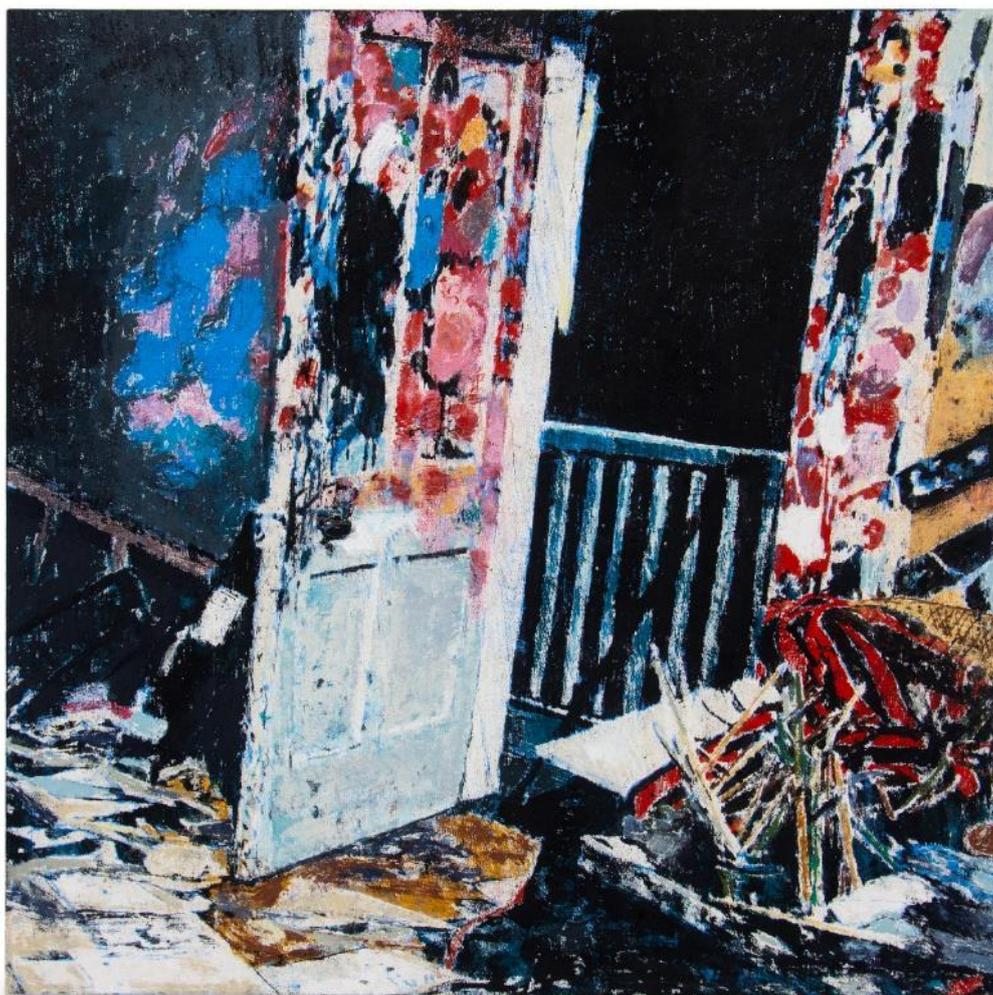


BEN BROWN FINE ARTS



Enoc Perez, *7 Reece Mews Kensington, London, Studio of Francis Bacon*, 2019,
oil on canvas, 152.4 x 152.4 cm; (60 x 60 in.)

ENOC PEREZ

The Cinematic Self

2 October – 22 November 2019

Private view: Tuesday, 1 October, 6-8pm

Ben Brown Fine Arts is delighted to present *Enoc Perez: The Cinematic Self*, the gallery's first exhibition with Puerto Rican-American artist Enoc Perez. This will be Perez's first exhibition in the UK in over ten years and will feature new and recent artworks from his evocative series of interiors paintings.

Born in 1967 in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Perez moved to New York in the 1980s to start his studies at the prestigious Pratt Institute. Fascinated by the city and its quintessential artists, Perez developed a distinct artistic vocabulary using architecture and spaces as a lens through which to examine symbols of power, identity, and aesthetics, both national and personal. He became known for his paintings of iconic utopian architecture, including those of American

embassies around the world, and post-war American landmarks, his most celebrated work to date.

The Cinematic Self marks a bold new direction for the artist. Moving away from exterior images of architecture, Perez takes a step inside, delving into a myriad of interiors inhabited by renowned figures - artists, collectors and eccentrics of the twentieth century. Painted with vibrant colours, the artworks explore private spaces and examine how these glimpses into their dwellings can function concomitantly as portraits and formalistic exercises in what he refers to as 'brushless' painting. To achieve this Perez focuses on the minutiae of these diverse personalities; from the jostling cosmetic bottles filling Warhol's bathroom cabinet on East 66th Street in New York, to the Rolling Stones' lips cut-out displayed in the decadent mirrored interiors of Villa Nellcôte where they recorded *Exile on Main Street*, to Le Corbusier's drawing tools laid out on his drafting table in front of one of his own paintings. Conspicuously absent of the central figures, these spaces are strikingly expressive in their own right, revealing how individuality can be constructed through personal effects.

Further paintings capture pivotal moments such as Elvis Presley's legendary Jungle Room at Graceland where the ailing rock star made his final recordings, while another work features David Bowie's unmade bed following a night of drinking with Soviet soldiers as he crossed Siberia by train in 1973. Elsewhere the paintings act as a means through which Perez examines his own practice, notably in his portrayal of the apartment where Jean-Michel Basquiat resided in the late 1970s, just before his meteoric rise to fame. Perez describes the personal resonance of this instant in the artist's burgeoning career, recalling that Basquiat was 'the painter I wanted to be when I moved to New York'.

A highlight of the exhibition will be the artist's depiction of the late Francis Bacon's London studio. Perez was drawn to the space not only as a fellow artist but also for Bacon's connection to London itself, the city where he lived for the majority of his career. Perez's painting offers an intimate window into the working space of this luminary of British art.

For the artist this series represents an important return to his formal origins; whilst in recent years he had begun to experiment with a paintbrush, here he returns to his idiosyncratic 'brushless' technique for which he received acclaim during his early career.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About the artist

Enoc Perez (b.1967, San Juan, Puerto Rico) is a critically acclaimed multidisciplinary artist living and working in Brooklyn, New York. In 1986 the artist moved to New York, where he earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts from Pratt Institute and a Master of Fine Arts from Hunter College. Perez's artworks sit in the collections of major museums including The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; The Whitney Museum of American Art, New York; The British Museum, London; Yale University Art Gallery, New Haven; New York Public Library; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; Corcoran Gallery of Art, Washington DC; and The Museum of Contemporary Art, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Perez has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at Dallas Contemporary, Dallas in 2018; UTA Artist Space, Los Angeles in 2017; and at the Museum of Contemporary Art North Miami, Miami in 2007. He has featured in important group exhibitions internationally including *Dimensions Variables* at Pavillon de l'Arsenal, Paris in 2015; *City Self* at the Museum Of Contemporary Art Chicago, in 2013; *Caribbean: Crossroads of the World*, The Studio Museum in Harlem, Queens Museum of Art, and El Museo del Barrio, New York; *The Undiscovered Country* at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles in 2004; and *Dear Painter, paint me...* at Centre Pompidou, Paris in 2002. In 2020 he will be the subject of a major retrospective at Museo de Arte de Ponce, Puerto Rico.

Ben Brown Fine Arts

Ben Brown Fine Arts opened its first location in the heart of Mayfair in 2004. The gallery has prominently positioned itself on the contemporary art scene with the representation of Ron Arad, Miquel Barceló, Tony Bevan, Yoan Capote, Rob & Nick Carter, Kitty Chou, Awol Erizku, Candida Hofer, Claude & François-Xavier Lalanne, Heinz Mack, Vik Muniz, Nabil Nahas, José Parlá, Ena Swansea, Djamel Tatah, Hank Willis Thomas, Gert & Uwe Tobias, Gavin Turk and Jan Worst. Also renowned for its strong expertise in 20th Century Italian Art, the gallery has been exhibiting the work of Lucio Fontana and Alighiero Boetti, amongst others, since its inception.

In 2009 the gallery took the first step in an international expansion with the opening of an exhibition space in Hong Kong. Brown's Hong Kong space was the first London gallery to open in the historic Pedder Building, offering a programme of western and international art exhibitions tailored to the Asian market. Since its establishment the Hong Kong gallery has hosted exhibitions of gallery artists as well as presenting historically significant exhibitions of important modern artists, most notably Pablo Picasso, Alighiero Boetti and Sean Scully. It participates in major art fairs worldwide.

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