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berlin

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**Paul Fägerskiöld**  
***Naturgemälde***

Berlin, September 14th, 2018 – November 17th, 2018

In his second solo exhibition at Galerie Nordenhake Berlin, Paul Fägerskiöld presents a series of new individual and multi-panel works, all produced in 2018.

The title *Naturgemälde* comes from Alexander von Humboldt's depiction and holistic categorisation of a mountain and its surroundings developed during his explorations in Latin America. The universal scholar and visionary thinker formulated his so-called *Naturgemälde*, German for 'painting of nature', as a "microcosm in one page". Andrea Wulf describes in her book "The Invention of Nature" how von Humboldt defines nature for the first time as a collection of ecosystems and interrelationships. The notion of nature as a Web of Life has been a crucial starting point in conceptualising this body of work for Fägerskiöld.

What does it mean to paint the landscape in the age of the Anthropocene, in an epoch where human beings don't just inhabit the earth's geology and ecosystems, but actively shape them? Fägerskiöld addresses this interrelationship in the context of the long tradition and pictorial language of landscape painting. Asserting that everything can be read as nature and landscape, the artist has drawn on his own subjective landscape and habitat. Delving into his private archive of photographs from his own surroundings and journeys, Fägerskiöld selected pictograms and symbols as the sources for the narrative suits of images that constitute his monochrome paintings.

On entering the exhibition, the visitor becomes part of a semiotic hyper-landscape, replete with references, tropes and symbols. Fägerskiöld describes the elements of these paintings as pieces of shadows – hieroglyphs from Plato's cave, in which the viewer is like Lucy, the first known human, building up meaning and language through images.

The largest painting suite, "My Life in the Woods (after Bellini's St. Francis in the Desert)", paraphrases Bellini's celebrated Renaissance painting, while also alluding to Thoreau's Walden, and constitutes a non-linear narrative depiction of the "real" world surrounding the artist. The title of another work, "Sarah's Dream", references the apocalyptic fears of Sarah Connor in the movie Terminator 2 in a Dada-esque apparition.

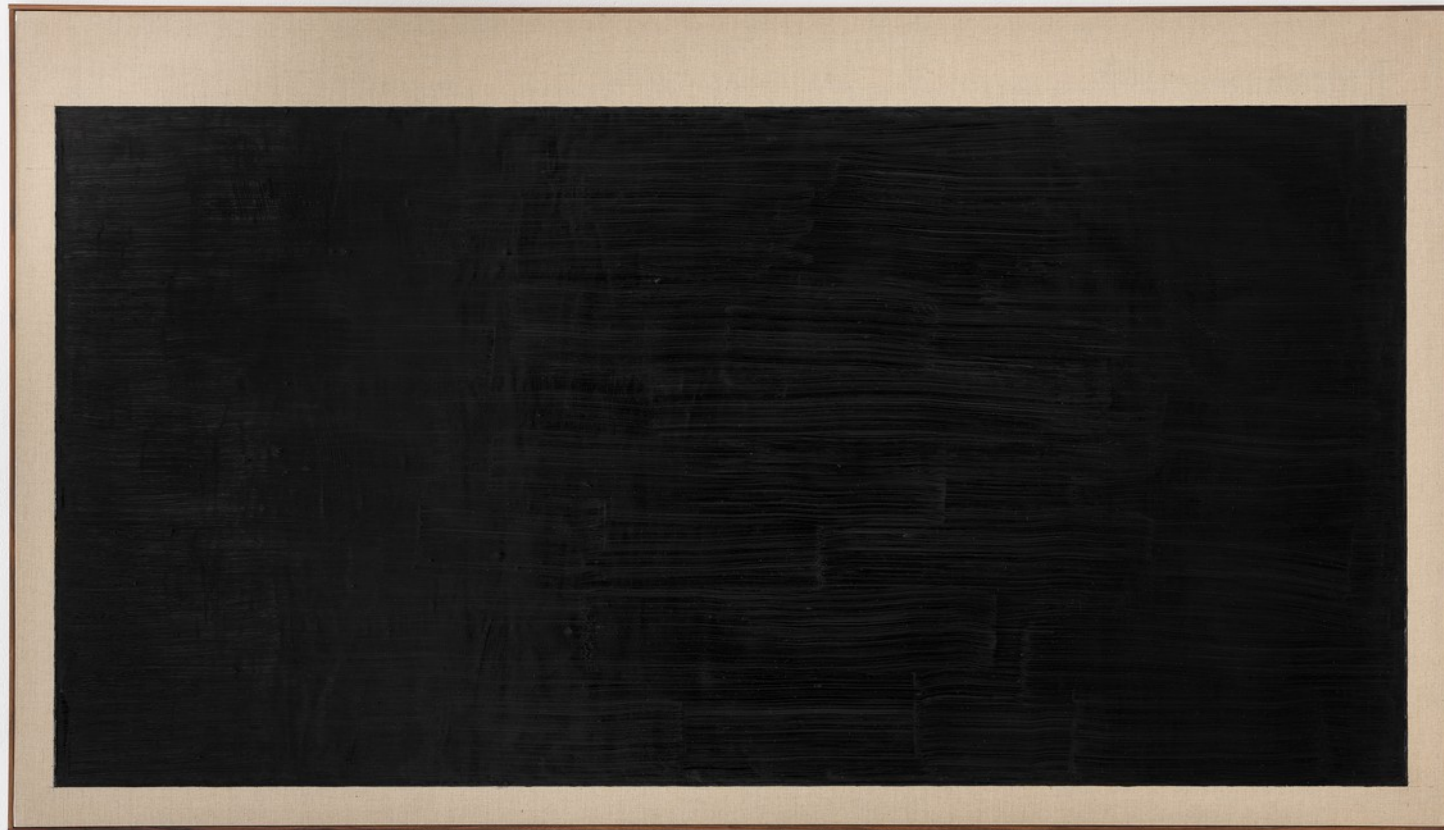
In a matrix of meanings the painting "Naledi" depicts 12 stars in a circle on the thick and textured black surface of the painting. Representing the symbol for the European Union flag, the title simultaneously points toward the Rising Star Cave in South Africa, in which the remains of our recently discovered ancestor Homo Naledi were found.

Previously in his paintings Fägerskiöld has eschewed figurative elements and each painting has only depicted a single subject. This new suite of monochrome large-scale works is full of interrelationships that build webs of meanings, stories and landscapes.

Paul Fägerskiöld was born in Stockholm in 1982 and currently lives and works in New York. He was educated at the Royal Institute of Art, Stockholm and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. In 2013 Moderna Museet, Malmö presented a solo exhibition of Fägerskiöld's work in connection with the Fredrik Roos Art Grant. He has exhibited widely in galleries in Europe and USA and his work is found in significant international museum collections. Institutional exhibition venues include Sven-Harrys konstmuseum (2016), Bonniers Konsthall, Stockholm (2016, 2010), Artipelag, Värmdö (2015) and Wanås Skulpturpark (2010). He has been awarded the Fredrik Roos Art Grant and Maria Bonnier Dahlins Award for Young Artists.



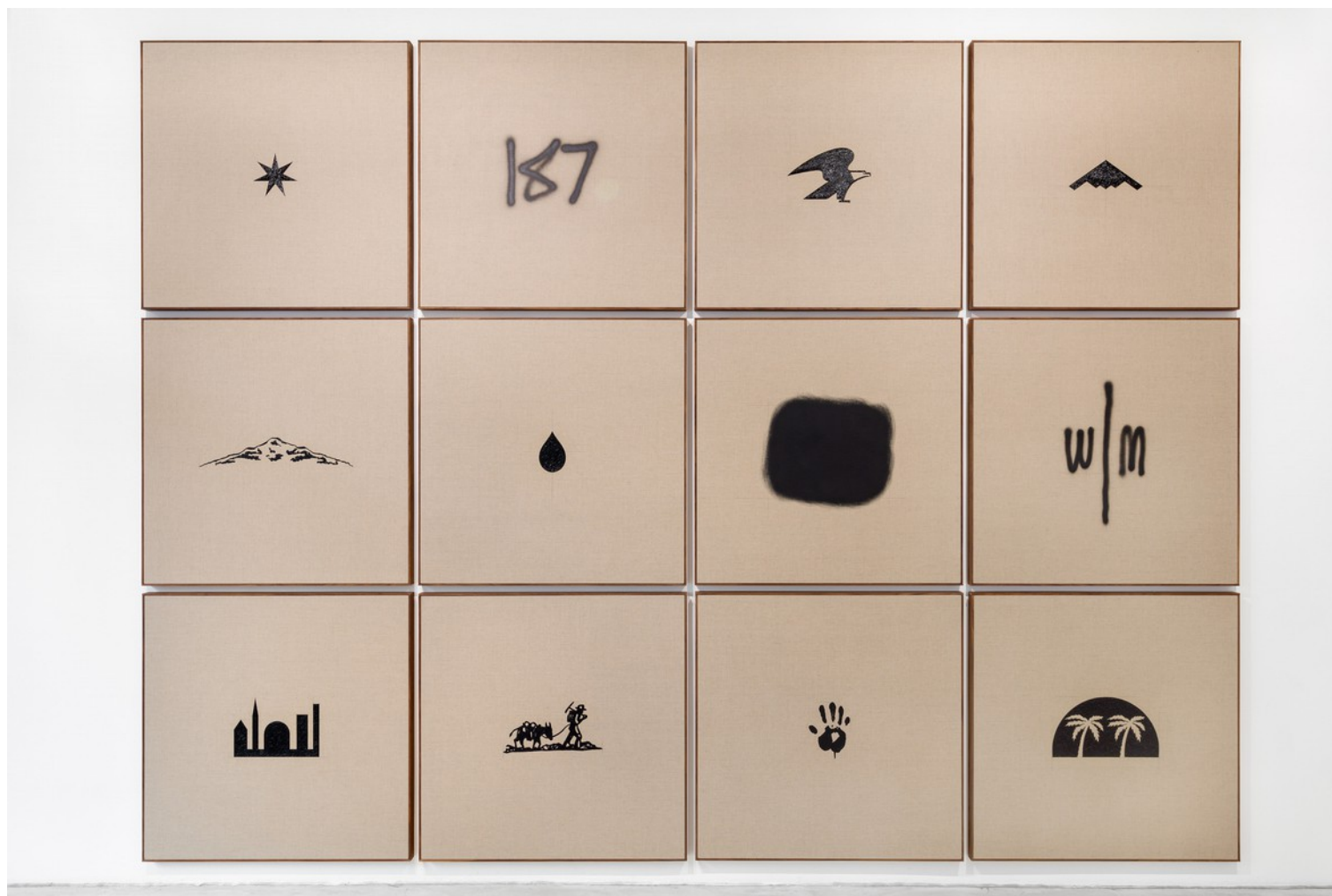
Installation view



3 Feet High And Rising  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
106 x 184.5 cm | 41 3/4 x 72  
2/3 in



My Life In The Woods (After  
Bellini's St Francis In The  
Desert)  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
each 97 x 97 cm  
total dimension: 298 x 399 cm |  
each 97 x 97 cm  
total dimension: 298 x 399 cm



My Life In The Woods (After  
Bellini's St Francis In The  
Desert)  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
each 97 x 97 cm  
total dimension: 298 x 399 cm |  
each 97 x 97 cm  
total dimension: 298 x 399 cm





My Life In The Woods (After  
Bellini's St Francis In The  
Desert)  
2018  
Detail





Naledi  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
252 x 307 cm | 99 1/4 x 120  
3/4 in





Naledi  
2018  
Detail





Naledi  
2018  
Detail



Installation view





Sarah's Dream  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
each 97 x 97 cm  
total 298 cm x 298 cm | each  
97 x 97 cm  
total 298 cm x 298 cm





Sarah's Dream  
2018  
Detail



Installation view





Installation view



Spirit In The Sky  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
242 x 242 cm | 95 1/4 x 95 1/4  
in





Spirit In The Sky  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
63 x 63 cm | 24 3/4 x 24 3/4 in



Spirit In The Sky  
2018  
Detail





Spirit In The Sky  
2018  
Detail



Spirit In The Sky  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
181 x 181 cm

30 000 EUR





Spirit In The Sky  
2018  
Detail

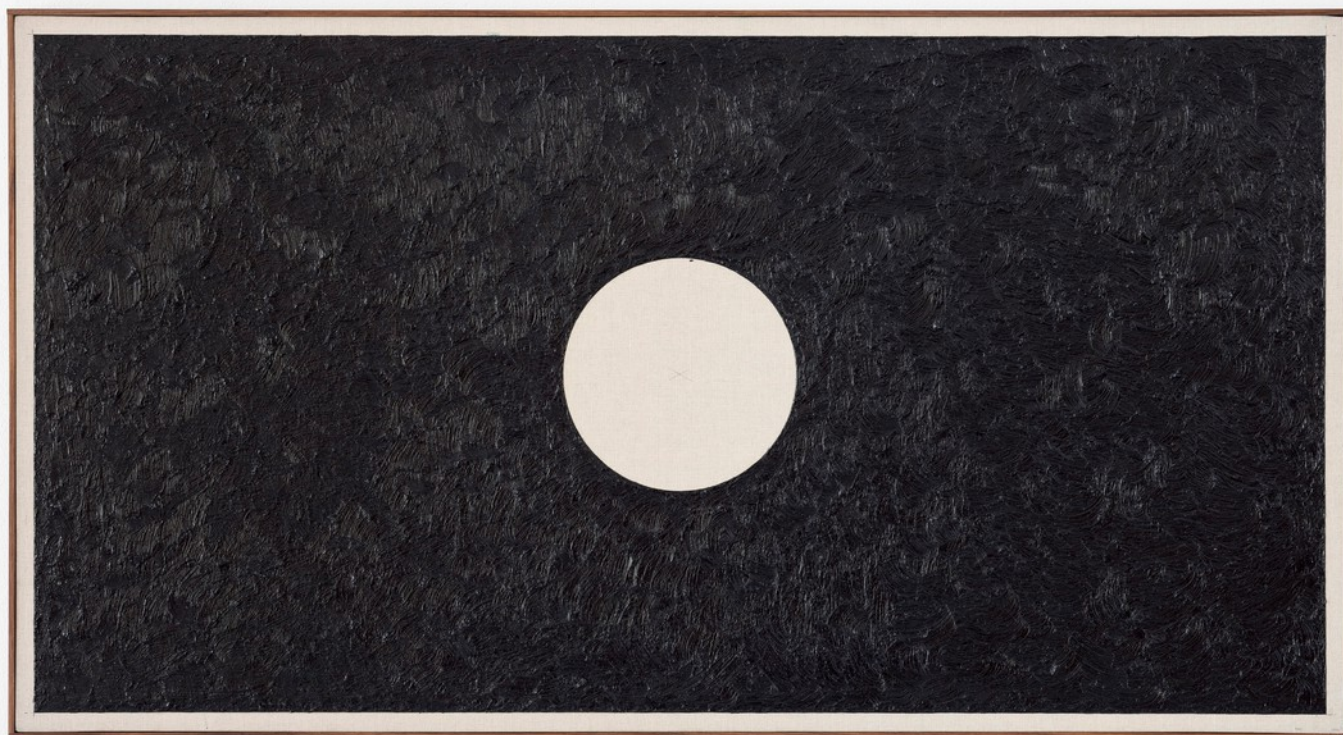


Installation view



Installation view





The Day After Tomorrow  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
77.5 x 143 cm | 30 1/2 x 56 1/3  
in





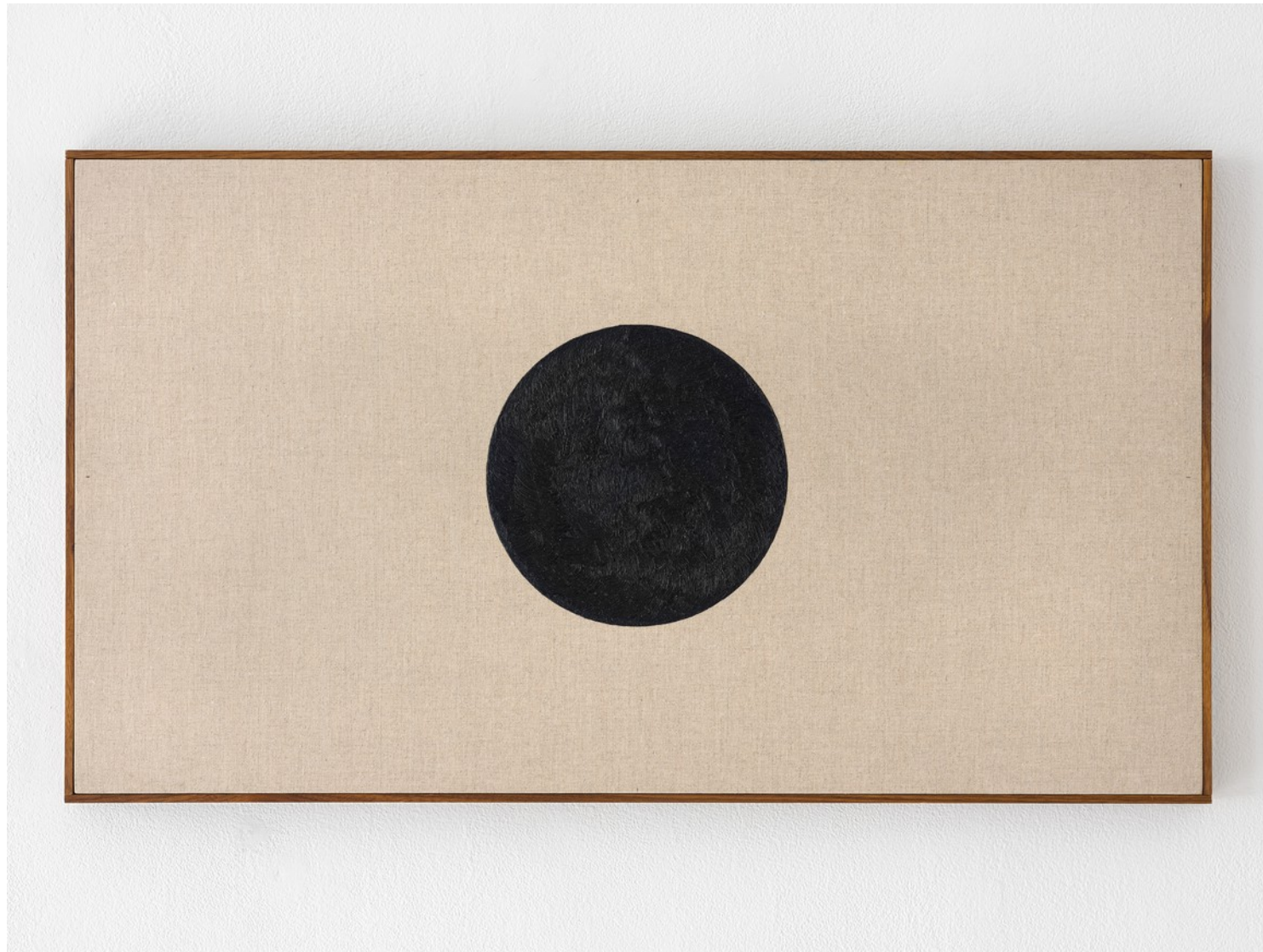
White Flag  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
51 x 81 cm | 20 x 32 in





White Flag  
2018  
Detail





Yet to be titled (back dot)  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
44 x 118 cm | 17 1/3 x 46 1/2 in





Yet to be titled (back dot)  
2018  
Detail





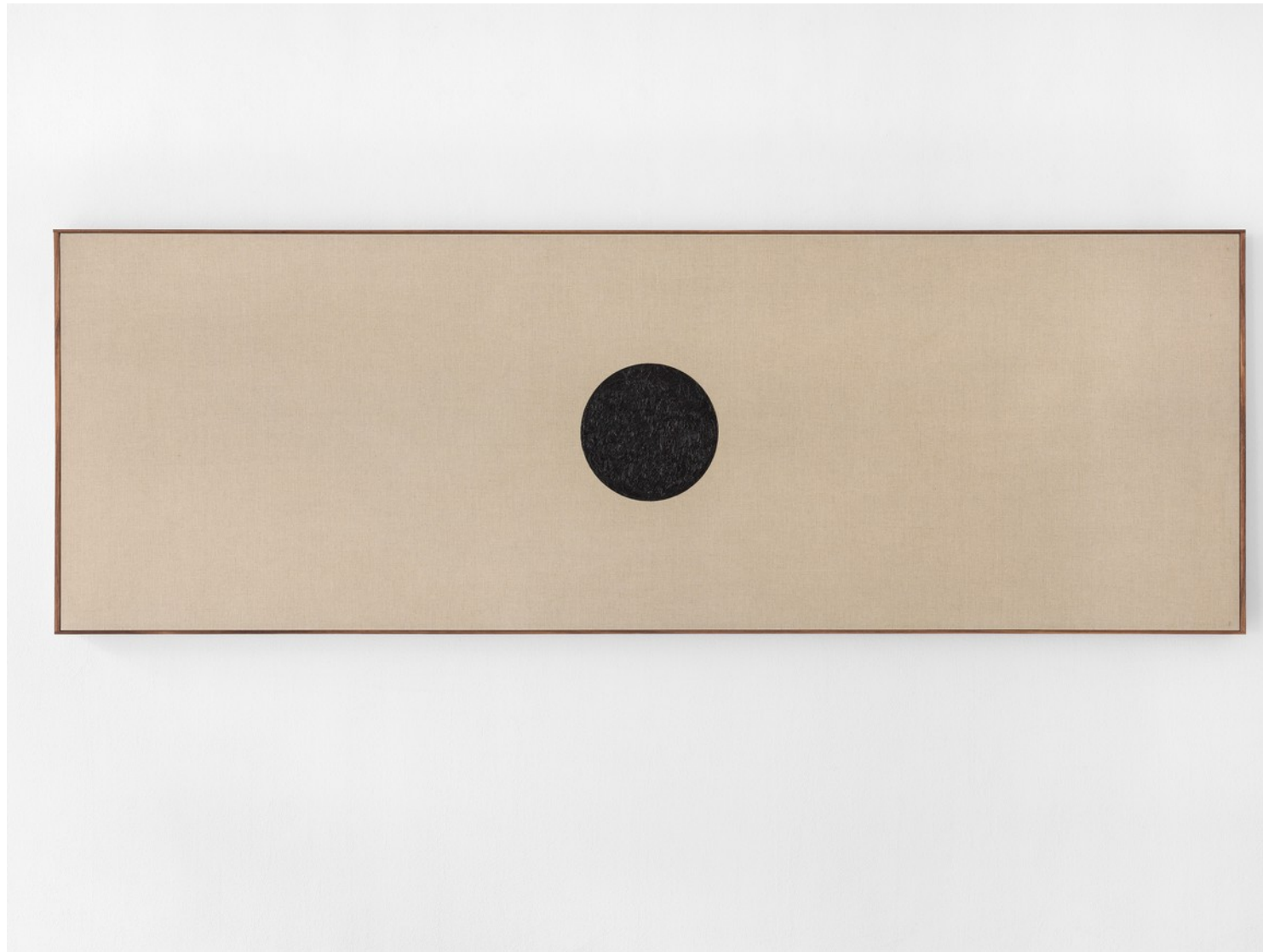
Yet to be titled (black square  
empty top)  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
97 x 97 cm | 38 1/4 x 38 1/4 in





Yet to be titled (black square  
empty top)  
2018  
Detail





Yet to be titled (längliches  
black dot)  
2018  
Oil on canvas  
86 x 256 cm | 33 3/4 x 100 3/4  
in



Yet to be titled (längliches  
black dot)  
2018  
Detail