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Mark James: VIVID

Exhibitions on June 4, 2024



Mark James, Come Fly With Me, 2024 (detail)

Mark James: VIVID

13th June, 2024 – 13th July, 2024

Cris Contini Contemporary

1 Lonsdale Road

Notting Hill

W11 2BY

Cris Contini Contemporary is delighted to announce the opening of their new London Gallery with **VIVID**, a solo exhibition of new paintings by British artist, **Mark James**. Founded in 2018 by Cristian Contini and Fulvio Granocchia, Cris Contini Contemporary has offices in Milan and Brussels, as well as their new exhibition space in the heart of London's Notting Hill.



Mark James Dettaglio #10, 2024

51X61

Image courtesy of the artist

Best known for FREEZE (1993) the first TV documentary about Damien Hirst and the YBA generation, James originally trained at Goldsmiths and has continued to pursue painting alongside creating numerous critically acclaimed TV and feature documentaries on music and the arts. James now divides his time between film making and painting and the exhibition at Cris Contini is his debut solo exhibition.

Photography, architecture, music, colour and movement are all part of the fundamental DNA of James' practice, conjuring joyful and dynamic spaces of colour, light and movement. Described by Waldemar Januszczak, the Art Critic of The Sunday Times as "Pop Suprematism", James' paintings are structured to create juxtapositions of shape, space and colour, evoking a mid-century aesthetic of modernism and a kind of future set in the past.



Mark James, Slip Slidin' Away, 2024

91X122

Image courtesy of the artist

Often created in response to music, James' paintings frequently reference the artist's wide-ranging playlist in their titles, from 'Summer Wind' to 'Come Fly With Me'. James comments, "Although the paintings aren't inspired by specific songs, I use song titles to name my paintings by selecting music which I feel most closely resonate with each Mark James. Come Fly With Me. 2024 painting. I particularly like music from the jazz /swing era and a number of people have commented that the paintings have a kind of jazz 'vibe'.

James' work is held in numerous high-profile private collections and is prominently featured in the celebrated Groucho alongside many of his YBA peers and Sir Michael Craig-Martin, the esteemed British artist whom James worked with as a trusted studio assistant for many years.



Mark James, Come Fly With Me, 2024 91X122

Image courtesy of the artist

Sir Michael Craig-Martin commented, "Setting out a very different creative path in mid-career in a serious professional way is a daunting and risky challenge but, as one can see in his new work that Mark has risen to it.

I am especially pleased for him to have this very well-earned opportunity to present his paintings to a new and wider audience, initiating the re-opening of Cris Contini Contemporary in London.". Mark James, New Paintings will feature 22 new paintings and 2 limited-edition prints. The exhibition will be accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue with introduction by Sir Michael Craig-Martin.

Mark James: VIVID open on the 13th of June, 2024 until the 13th of July, 2024 at Cris Contini Contemporary