

**PHILLIP ALLEN**  
***Deepdrippings***

11 February – 25 March 2017

**PREVIEW:** 10 February, 6–8pm

Kerlin Gallery is delighted to present *Deepdrippings*, an exhibition of new paintings by Phillip Allen. The exhibition will open with a reception in the company of the artist on the evening of Friday 10 February.

Throughout his career, Phillip Allen has revelled in exploring the sculptural potential within the practice of painting. Since graduating from art college in London in the early 1990s, Allen has pursued a unique approach that has seen him move through richly patterned, semi-figurative landscapes, arriving over the past decade at total abstraction. In *Deepdrippings*, the artist continues his exploration of the medium with a new series of paintings on board, all of which have been intensively worked and re-worked to create a deeply layered surface, abundant with impasto paint.



*Deepdrippings (Curry Nighthawk Version)*, 2016,  
oil on board, 153 x 122 cm / 60.2 x 48 in

While previous work has seen Allen play with pictorial tradition, using framing devices to challenge the viewer's perception of space and depth, these new paintings privilege surface over illusion. Shapes and forms buzz and hover as if in mid-air; jostling for our attention, rather than receding into the distance. *Deepdrippings* is an exploration of density, with tar-like globules almost fizzing on the surface of the paintings. This is intensified in Allen's highly condensed smaller paintings, which in their minute brilliance recall neutron stars – the smallest but most densely packed celestial objects in existence, of which a teaspoon-sized amount would weigh about 10 million tonnes.

The new work presented in *Deepdrippings* thus marks a significant development in Allen's practice, but as pointed out by the art critic John Yau (*Hyperallergic*), 'For all the radical changes that Allen has made ... his long preoccupation with paint as matter has become increasingly evident.' This body of work is no different, placing paint and its many possibilities centre stage, and using it to establish a new language and form of communication, articulated through suggestion, insinuation and indirect expression.

Phillip Allen graduated from the Royal College of Art, London in 1992. Recent solo exhibitions include Dolph Projects (2016); The Approach, London (2014, 2011 & 2008); Kerlin Gallery, Dublin (2013, 2009 & 2005); Xavier Hufkens, Brussels (2007, 2005); Milton Keynes Gallery, UK (2006); and MoMA PS1, New York (2003). International group shows include CCA Andratx, Mallorca (2012); Hong Kong Heritage Museum, Hong Kong SAR (2011); Fabio Tiboni arte Contemporanea, Bologna, Italy; The City Gallery, Leicester, UK (2009); Tate Britain, London (2009) and the British Art Show 6.

For further information, please contact Rosa Abbott, rosa@kerlin.ie.

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