

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Dani Tull: Take a single letter from the stream

June 5 – August 14, 2021

Gallery hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10am – 6pm

Diane Rosenstein Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of new paintings by Los Angeles-based artist Dani Tull. Tull's abstract paintings are language-based and inherently sentimental, a dynamic the artist calls "narrative abstraction." This is his first show with the gallery.

The compositions in these paintings appear to be subject to the forces of gravity -- the earth element that keeps us on the ground able to sustain and propagate life, or alternately, gravity makes things fall apart. The forms in Tull's paintings lean, support, and navigate the space and negotiate complex relationships, much like organic lifeforms and human interrelations. The compositions ultimately work towards what Tull refers to as "self-correcting forms" -- always striving toward equilibrium while arching against collapse.

In the process of painting, the artist encountered a *Tabula rasa* (or clean slate) upon which he meticulously inscribed the underpainting in graphite with personal texts as well as poetry by various writers (including friends and family members). These lettered layers are painted over and are intentionally obscured.

The exhibition will offer nearly twenty paintings presented in two groupings: earlier works with dramatic luminous backgrounds painted in oil on canvas and recent works in which raw linen is stained with dynamic layers of loosely spilled washes of paint. Both backgrounds set the stage for Tull's narratives.

Through a generative process, a repetition of pinstripe lines is hand-painted in flashe and accumulate into what Tull refers to as "streams." The color combinations chosen for the streams have been derived from meaningful life experiences and suspended in these forms and on the surfaces of the paintings like trace artifacts. For example, within a single canvas, one stream of colors is derived from Tull's memory of an event he does not have a photograph of, or his late grandfather's vintage flannel shirt; others are the colors of his wife and daughter's hair, or Tull's own teenaged psychedelic memory of watching the sun setting during an outdoor concert on a California beach. Others borrow from artwork: the color palette from a landscape painting by the artists' mother or colors from Tull's previous bodies of work. These meaningful life

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experiences offer source material while embedding the abstractions with inherent sentimental narrative.

The foundation of Dani Tull's process may be subtle and personal, however the completed paintings resolve as an exciting interplay between materials and process, formalist explorations and considered abstraction.

Dani Tull (USA, b. 1966) is a painter, sculptor, and musician. He received his MFA from Stanford University (1990) and BFA from The San Francisco Art Institute (1988). His sculpture is currently on view in *Judson Studios: Stained Glass from Gothic to Street Style* at the Forest Lawn Museum; and a recent solo show, *Slow Burners*, was at The Pit II (2019), both in Glendale, CA. He has shown painting and sculpture at the New Museum, NY, and the Santa Monica Museum of Art (now ICA/LA); and in Los Angeles at Blum & Poe, The Pit, Wilding Cran, and Charlie James Gallery, among others. As a printmaker, "Faster, Jim" -- the Hamilton Press collaboration with Raymond Pettibon (2002) -- is in the permanent collection of The Getty Museum, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NY, and Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He is a frequent collaborator with Jim Shaw and is a member of *D'red D'warf*, their ongoing band project. Other musical recordings and recent projects include solo performances for SASSAS, West Of Rome and Los Angeles Free Music Society (LAFMS). He lives and works in Highland Park, CA where he co-curates an artist-run space ODD ARK LA with his wife, Yvonne Bas-Tull.