



# RYAN MCGINNESS

## RYAN MCGINNESS WORKS.

**MARCH 7 – APRIL 18, 2009**  
**18 WOOSTER**

*Ryan McGinness Works.*, an exhibition of new paintings and sculptures by Ryan McGinness, opens on Saturday, March 7th, at Deitch Projects's 18 Wooster Street gallery. Like all of McGinness's exhibitions at Deitch Projects, this show is not just a display of new work, but an experiential installation. Gallery visitors will enter the world of Ryan McGinness.

McGinness merges several of the most important directions in contemporary painting. His work combines all-over composition, inspired by Jackson Pollock and the mechanical silkscreen process inspired by Andy Warhol. The work also fuses naturalistic and contemporary pop culture references. His imagery derives from a broad range of sources: from dreams and hallucinations to song lyrics and fragments of art history. There is a push and pull between content and form, and between literal meaning and intuitive feeling. McGinness's paintings represent his own mental landscape. His compositions reflect the infinite, ever-flowing continuum of the universe.

McGinness begins his working process with hand-drawn sketches. These sketches are scanned and then used as templates for precise vector drawings created as digital files. He then makes silkscreens of the resulting icons. His iconic images are then hand-screened onto the canvas, one at a time. His compositions are built up layer-by-layer and grown the way one might cultivate a garden. McGinness emphasizes that his paintings are not pre-planned, as the carefully crafted individual graphic drawings might suggest. He does not believe that a good painting is simply an executed plan for a painting. The process of making his paintings informs the final outcome. These are intuition-driven works. He believes that the method that one chooses to make the painting, in his case, silkscreening, should be fully exploited within the painting. He therefore uses the language of silkscreen to overprint, off-register, fragment and overlap his drawings. Unless one is intimately familiar with the silkscreen process, it is difficult to "reverse-engineer" the work.

Ryan McGinness is known for his expanded concept of painting. He extends his vision beyond his canvases and onto the walls to create immersive environments. In *Ryan McGinness Works.*, the artist will create a black light room with site-specific glowing *Black Hole* paintings and fluorescent vinyl. This expansion continues with a series of sculptures where his paintings explode into the third dimension.

In 2007, McGinness was commissioned by PS1/ MoMA to create an installation for Art Positions at Art Basel Miami Beach. The work was reinstalled at PS1 in the spring of 2008. In the fall of 2008, the Cincinnati Art Museum presented a solo exhibition of McGinness's *Aesthetic Comfort* works.

The opening of *Ryan McGinness Works.* coincides with the release of a new book of the same title, published by Rizzoli. The hardcover 296-page book is a process-revealing catalogue of recent works which includes a behind-the-scenes look at McGinness's last Deitch exhibition in 2005. Included are texts and interviews by David Byrne, Tom Greenwood, Peter Halley, Greg Lindquist, and Jonathan T.D. Neil.

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