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**Will Murchison: *Find the Beginning*
Opens Saturday, February 19th at Erin Cluley Gallery**

[Dallas, Texas – January 25, 2022] **ERIN CLULEY GALLERY** is pleased to announce the upcoming solo exhibition by Will Murchison, *Find the Beginning*, the artist's second solo with the gallery. The exhibition will be on view February 19th through March 26th, 2022 at the gallery's main location, 150 Manufacturing Street, Suite 210, with an opening reception held on February 19th, 5 – 8 PM with the artist in attendance. The gallery is open weekly Wednesday through Saturday, 12 – 5 PM and by appointment. Masks are required while in the gallery.

Using a dizzying combination of painting, collage, and manipulation techniques, artist Will Murchison creates bold, abstracted works that dissolve mythic and historic imagery into dense fields of shape and color. Layers are teeming with materials, both found and constructed, that have been built up or eroded away. Intricate cuttings meander through the composition, rendering a compact surface geography that is disorienting and rudimentarily ornate. The source images, now buried, transform into but a ghost of themselves.

Murchison has developed a technique for making sheets of acrylic paint that can be cut and reapplied to his paintings. These skins of paint allow him to capture the accident and energy of spills and gestural painting without losing the collage artist's ability to manipulate and arrange materials. In applying the acrylic sheets to the painting, Murchison intuitively responds to the underlying imagery and the surface of the skin with a combination of collage, further painting, and mosaic application of acrylic pieces. The result is reminiscent of cellular structures or aerial images of topography.

Drawing from Greek mythology, Murchison uses symbols from the parables as a basis for the works in this exhibition. Rather than focusing on the traditional aspects of storytelling, he is most interested in the shrouded histories behind the myths. His inspiration derives from a reflection on the real people attributed to those myths as they tried to make sense of their own world. Behind the garish imagery are the whispers from a forgotten time.

The title of the exhibition, *Find the Beginning*, refers to both Murchison's intricately worked surfaces and the narrative themes explored in the paintings. The titular phrase is also a quote from the opening lines of *The Odyssey* in which Homer calls upon Athena to guide his telling of the coming tale.

The paintings, then, become a physical talisman that echoes the ethereal nature of the mythic past.

About the Artist

With a background in paper collage, **WILL MURCHISON** culls imagery from lifestyle and fashion magazines. He cuts these images into highly stylized shapes that disrupt the objective aesthetic of found imagery. Often referencing historical or mythological content, his work becomes abstracted, fragmented history paintings.

Murchison was born in Dallas, Texas in 1987 and lives and works in Dallas and is represented by Erin Cluley Gallery. He obtained a B.A. in Art History from the University of Dallas in 2010 and a J.D. from S.M.U. in 2014. His work is included in the collection of the University of Dallas.

About Erin Cluley Gallery

Erin Cluley Gallery is a contemporary art gallery representing emerging, mid-career, and established artists from Dallas and the United States. The gallery presents a provocative program of artists working in both traditional and alternative forms including painting, sculpture, new media, photography, sculptural installation and public intervention.

In 2014, Erin Cluley Gallery ignited a creative movement in West Dallas acting as a hub for visual arts and community engagement. After nearly five years on Fabrication Street, the gallery has moved its operation to Riverbend – a development in Dallas' Design District celebrating the intersection between culture and commerce.

In April 2021, Cluley opened Cluley Projects – a satellite location in West Dallas acting as an incubator space focusing on regional artists and providing a platform for discovery and mentorship.

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