

Anthony Burnham
Exposition pour marionette en 3 actes
Curator Ji-Yoon Han
April 25-June 8, 2024
Galerie Eli Kerr

Act 1 - S'insérer dans l'image / *Slipping into the image* (April 25–May 11)

Act 2 - Marionnette / *Marionette* (May 11–25)

Act 3 - La tentation de l'espace / *Becoming space* (May 25–June 8)

Vernissage: Thursday, April 25, 2024, 5–9 pm

Rotations: Saturday, May 11, and Saturday, May 25, between 4 and 6 pm

Conversation: Saturday, June 8, at 3 pm

— — — —

Galerie Eli Kerr is thrilled to announce that it is representing Montréal artist Anthony Burnham, who is inaugurating a program of solo exhibitions at 4647 boulevard Saint-Laurent.

For ten years, Burnham has been working with a single object – an abstract structure whose components he assembles, takes apart, and reassembles to produce paintings that explore the interstices between volume and plane, presence and absence, the thing and its image. His studio approach is both intuitive and utterly intellectual. The object is photographed, painted, drawn, multiplied, dismantled, flattened, reconfigured. Photographed again. Painted again. Subjected to *mises en abyme*, the object recently metamorphosed into a marionette – that is, no longer an object, but an object-subject, an articulated object, mobile and even animate. It has become an actor that calls out to be handled even as it transforms its environment into a stage.

Exposition pour marionnette en 3 actes, deployed around the protagonist-marionette, is a brand-new body of photographs, paintings, and sculptural installations. At Ji-Yoon Han's instigation, Burnham will stage three performative situations that invite visitors, successively, to enter the image, move around the marionette, and finally allow themselves to be absorbed by the space. Through a dynamic and evolving play of mirrors between the works, the gallery itself becomes an articulated, mobile, and animate body.

The public is warmly invited to attend the exhibition's rotations from one act to the next. Each rotation will take the form of a change of setting performed by Burnham and documented (photographs, video). A public conversation between Burnham and Han will take place on the exhibition's final day.

For the exhibition, an essay by Katrie Chagnon offering a general overview of Burnham's practice will be available on site and on the gallery's website.

Anthony Burnham (1973–) has, for twenty years, developing an art practice that is unique in the Montréal landscape, based on a rigorously conceptual approach to painting and focused on contemporary issues around l'image appareillée the mediated image. In 2009, he attended the Banff Centre's thematic residency "Why Are Conceptual Artists Painting Again: Because They Think It's a Good Idea," which gave rise to a first major solo exhibition accompanied by a monograph, *Even Space Does Not Repeat*, presented at the Walter Phillips Gallery (Banff), the Carleton University Gallery (Ottawa), and Galerie René Blouin (Montréal), which represented Burnham from 2010 to 2020. Burnham's work has been included in notable group exhibitions, among them the Québec Triennial *Nothing Is Lost, Nothing Is Created, Everything Is Transformed* (Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal, 2008); *Le Projet Peinture, un instantané de la peinture au Canada* (Galerie de l'UQAM, 2013); and *The Canadian Biennial* (National Gallery of Canada, 2017). Burnham holds a BFA from Concordia University (1997) and has received creation grants from the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec and the Canada Council for the Arts. He was a finalist in the RBC Canadian Painting Competition (2009) and the Sobey Art Award (2013). His works are in major institutional collections, including those of the National Gallery of Canada, the Musée des beaux-arts du Québec, the Art Gallery of Ontario, the Musée des beaux-arts de Montréal, and the Musée d'art de Joliette, and in many Canadian corporate and private collections. He lives and works in Tiohtiá:ke / Mooniyang / Montréal.

Exhibition curator and independent researcher **Ji-Yoon Han** lives and works in Tiohtiá:ke / Mooniyang / Montréal. In her deliberately interdisciplinary projects, she highlights the guiding force of images in shifting social, cultural, and psychological contexts. She was the guest curator for the 2023 edition of MOMENTA Biennale de l'image, titled *Masquerades: Drawn to Metamorphosis*, which brought together projects by twenty-three Canadian and international artists.