

DAVID KLEIN GALLERY

[BENJAMIN PRITCHARD, *Nature Worship*](#)

March 23 – May 4, 2024

David Klein Gallery is pleased to present *BENJAMIN PRITCHARD, Nature Worship*, featuring Pritchard's recent paintings and work on paper. An opening reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, March 23rd, 5– 8 PM at David Klein Gallery, Detroit.

Pritchard has spent the last few years working in both his Brooklyn studio and in a rustic shed at his family's Michigan home. It is his natural surroundings at home that have exerted the strongest influence on the work in *Nature Worship*. Pritchard's process is instinctive, discovering the image through the paint itself, working in multiple layers of color and texture to find the balance and substance in each canvas. The work's bold, almost wild, organic forms and saturated color are underpinned by his intimate knowledge of 20th Century Abstraction and Expressionism. Pritchard notes the influences of favorite artists, such as Al Held, Forrest Bess, Albert Pinkham Ryder and Gustave Moreau whose work explores the boundaries between the nature and abstraction.



Ben working in his Michigan studio, photo by Christie Lynn Caputo

Pritchard takes the discord and unpredictability of life, both significant and mundane, and manages to derive pure aesthetic harmony. The paintings and drawings consolidate the tumult of the world and the psyche within. Instead of rejecting these invasive elements, they are joyfully embraced as a source of inspiration and beauty. The aesthetic radiance, powerful euphoric energy, and humanity of the artwork are achieved through accepting rawness and leaving intact the tangible internal and external struggle of creating the work. Equity Gallery, New York, NY, 2021

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Light Years – 2023, Oil on canvas, 108 x 132 inches

After spending decades in urban areas I got deeply involved in observing the days and weather in Michigan, feeling the days move into the new season. The work began to proliferate and themes around observations of mortality and renewal, nature and repetition and change began to emerge. I think of these paintings as landscapes, not as descriptive or impressionist inspired images, but inspired by my immersion in this specific place. - Benjamin Pritchard March 2024

Benjamin Pritchard lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He also maintains a studio in the Detroit Metro area where he was raised. Pritchard has exhibited in the U.S. and abroad including David Klein Gallery, Detroit, MI; Eric Firestone Gallery, New York NY and East Hampton, NY; M David & Co, Brooklyn, NY; John Davis Gallery, Hudson, NY; Gallery Shoshinken, Nagano, Japan; and Koh Phangdon Arts Center, Thailand. In addition to his solo show at David Klein Gallery in March 2024 upcoming exhibitions will take place at Künstlerhaus Bethanien, Berlin; and Billytown, The Hague, Belgium. Pritchard has organized and curated group exhibitions including *Cup o Sugar* at Lorimoto Gallery, Ridgewood, NY, *Paintings in Trees*, People's Garden, Brooklyn, NY; as well as numerous guerilla exhibitions in abandoned buildings in New York City and London, England.

Pritchard has a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and an MFA from the Royal Academy of Arts, London. Additional studies include the New York Studio School from 1994-1996. Awards include the Joan Mitchell Foundation award for residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts.

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David Klein Gallery was established in Birmingham, MI in 1990 with an exhibition program focused on presenting national and regional contemporary artists. Since its founding, the gallery has maintained a strong interest in Post War American and European art, presenting historical surveys by significant 20th Century artists including Alexander Calder, Richard Diebenkorn, Jean Dubuffet, Max Ernst, Alex Katz, and Bob Thompson.

In 2015, a second gallery was opened in downtown Detroit on historic Washington Boulevard. The scale of this architecturally significant space allowed for an expansion of the gallery's contemporary program to include large-scale exhibitions of paintings, sculpture, photography, and installations by emerging, mid-career, and established contemporary artists. Exhibited artists include Ebitenyefa Baralaye, Emmy Bright, Susan Goethel Campbell, Jack Craig, Iris Eichenberg, Kim McCarty, Benjamin Pritchard, Kelly Reemtsen, Robert Schefman, Rosalind Tallmadge and Neha Vedpathak,

Throughout its thirty-four year history, David Klein Gallery has consistently cultivated a dialog between contemporary and historical artists. By working closely with the estates of Al Held, Clement Meadmore, Robert Motherwell, and Jack Tworkov, the gallery presents compelling and historically significant exhibitions to our Detroit audience. That practice, paired with a diverse program of exceptional contemporary artists, affirms its status as one of the leading galleries in the Mid-West. It is the only Detroit based member of the prestigious Art Dealers Association of America (ADAA). In addition to the rigorous exhibition schedule in both Metro Detroit locations, David Klein Gallery participates annually in art fairs in New York, Chicago, Miami, and Los Angeles.

David Klein Gallery has helped build notable collections with discerning collectors since its inception and maintains working relationships with numerous museums and curators. The gallery has placed work in multiple national institutions including the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Cranbrook Art Museum, the University of Michigan Museum of Art, the Flint Institute of Arts, the Williams College Museum of Art, and the International African American Museum.

For further information, please contact:

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David Klein Gallery

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Tuesday–Saturday, 12 – 5:30 PM

www.dkgallery.com