

Press Release

"I want my works to be raw and rugged, but also tactile and sensitive – so hopefully people feel drawn in to inspect the materials closely and want understand how the paintings are made." - Tess Williams

Aleph Contemporary is pleased to present '**Sirens**' by Tess Williams, an on-line solo show beginning 16th March - 31st March, 2020.

Tess Williams 'Sirens' 2020.



Williams was born in 1985 and raised in London. The daughter of an architect, she grew up familiar and fascinated by the juxtaposition of materials. Artists who have been an inspiration include Robert Rauschenburg and Sterling Ruby.

Williams travels have taken her through Europe to the far east. She has observed the impermanence of life and how human beings in distress survive in adverse conditions (not excluding London), rebuilding and reusing stuff society throws out. Her photographs of *"urban decay and the gritty physical de-*

tails of city life - the composition of dilapidated buildings, the form and colours of peeling paint, the juxtaposition between a shiny façade and fading graffiti”, are the preparatory steps to her paintings.

Williams is concerned with how we relate to things and to one another, how conflicting energies and tensions are at play between masculine and feminine. Her work oscillates between the physicality of materials and psychological states of being, from the brutal to the vulnerable.

Williams uses mixed media and collage for her paintings - ripped canvas, linens and reclaimed fabrics, pushing boundaries, experimenting with materials, deconstructing and reconfiguring components into new forms, often restricting her palette to two contrasting colours.

‘Through a mastery of surface and composition, Williams’ painting imaginatively balances idioms from mid-century abstraction with contemporary urban references and the mark of the artist in the atelier. This virtuosic use of tone, texture and a sculptural sensibility of canvas, colour and form make Williams’ work a significant contribution to twenty-first century artistic reimagining of the tenets of abstraction.’

- Rosa JH Berland for Aleph Contemporary.

Williams holds her MA, Fine Art, Distinction, Central Saint Martins, London, BA (Hons) Fine Art DeMontfort University, Leicester as well as a Foundation Diploma, Central Saint Martins. Special residencies included the 2019 High House Residency, Norfolk; Ryall Hill Residency, Worcestershire, 2019; Griffin Gallery Residency, London, 2018 and the Bergmannkiez Studio Residency, Berlin, Germany, 2017.

Williams has had solo exhibitions in London, Munich, Berlin, Copenhagen, Lisbon, Madrid, Marseille.