

**Chason Matthams: *Glimpse***

September 17—October 22, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 17, 4–8 pm

Level Three

Magenta Plains is proud to present *Glimpse*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Chason Matthams. Known for his painterly precision and superb color control, Matthams is part of a new generation of painters utilizing the “hyperreal” as a source of expressive potential.

As a painter, Matthams’ focus is on capturing the ephemeral experience of consciousness and pointing to its fragmentary nature. Intended as receptacles for the experience of the viewer, each work manipulates varying hues and gradients to imbue their inanimate subjects with emotional weight. While at first glance these paintings seem to be contemplative experiments in mimesis, prolonged looking reveals threatening undertones. Matthams’ employs specific combinations of colors, angles of perspective, and exhaustive detail to anthropomorphize each of his subjects, rendering them just barely sinister. Flitting between mechanical and organic objects, Matthams’ exacting brushwork is the connective thread leading our eye through every sumptuous detail.

Comprised primarily of his characteristic *Camera* and *Corsage* paintings, *Glimpse* is a foray into the mind of an intensive observer of the minutiae of the world. Matthams’ *Cameras* are all lit with a strange, otherworldly light, transforming each of these mechanisms into objects of sci-fi intrigue. Most obviously unnerving are the camera lenses, which take on the coloration of their pasteled, non-specific backgrounds. Intensifying the general palette of the paintings, each camera’s lens reflects an abstracted, inorganic world contained within the interior of these nascent artificial intelligences. His *Corsage* paintings depict capsules of static flowers, drifting through gently illuminated no-places. Even more everyday than his cameras, these objects become monumental, nearly mournful in Matthams’ rendering. Floating above their impossibly still reflections, the corsages inhabit an astral plane where simple plastic and organic matter seem to be permanent fixtures, frozen in time.

*Glimpse* is a demonstration of Chason Matthams’ masterful, detail-oriented style and subtly expressive color. Further than their aesthetic qualities, his paintings are quasi-spiritual tableaux, in which the subjects become idols verging on objects of devotion. Through this transformative process all the attendant emotions are included: reverence, desire, and a sense of foreboding. This affective charge uncouples his subject matter from its everyday connotation to be considered anew, suggesting the bottomless and shifting nature of perception. Matthams is an alchemist, transmuting the format of the still life into something far stranger and far more enticing.

Chason Matthams (b. 1981, Pacific Grove, CA) graduated with a BFA in Fine Art from New York University in 2004 and an MFA from New York University in 2012. Previous solo exhibitions include *A Hell for Rainbows*, Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York, NY (2019); *Advances, None Miraculous*, Thierry Goldberg Gallery, New York, NY (2015); and Tyler Wood Gallery, San Francisco, CA (2019, 2013). He was included in *Blossom*, a three person exhibition with Ted Pim and Marisa Takal organized by the Tong Art Advisory at the Artron Art Centre, Shenzhen, CN (2021); and his work was included in Artforum's "Portfolios" feature in March 2020. Previous group exhibitions include *Stockholm Sessions* at Carl Kostyál, Stockholm, Sweden (2021); *Nature Morte* at The Hole, New York, NY (2021); Cynthia Daignault's *The Certainty of Others*, Flag Art Foundation, New York, NY (2017); *L'IM\_MAGE\_N* Ashes/Ashes, New York, NY (2017); *Break Out*, Frédéric de Goldschmidt Collection, Brussels, Belgium (2015); and *Beyond the Pale*, Interstate, Brooklyn, NY (2014).