



MILES

McENERY

GALLERY

BRIAN ALFRED

YOU COULD FEEL THE SKY

September 7, 2024 – December 13, 2024



BROOKLYN – Opening on September 7, 2024, The Williamsburg Biennial presents its inaugural exhibition, *You Could Feel The Sky*, a survey of Brian Alfred’s work from 2003 through the present. A reception celebrating the artist will be held on September 7, 2024 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm.

Made over the last two decades, *You Could Feel The Sky* is an overview of different bodies of Alfred’s work and will debut several never before exhibited pieces. Paintings, collages, and digital animations depict a range of scenes: domestic interiors, urban cityscapes, portraits of genre-bending musicians, and idyllic environmental vistas. Alfred’s imagery balances serene explorations of place, at times, with a post-human feeling of unease and impending caution.

Alfred’s process, honed over the past twenty five years, distills his source imagery to its most essential forms. Drawing technical and aesthetic inspiration from the Japanese ukiyo-e printmaking tradition, he builds the images through an architectural approach that is as in concert with tradition as it is with new media approaches. The work achieves a concurrent thin layering of surfaces and shapes with a depth of light and form.

His imagery—a combination of his own experiences, imagined locations, and sourced imagery—explores the many facets of the current world we live in. From cascading waterfalls and Manhattan highrises to barren forests and spirited stadiums, each painting is an undeniable exemplar of Alfred’s oeuvre. His perspective both removes and embeds the viewer in the scenery, allowing us to see the world through his eyes. The resulting exhibition presents a reflective look at us as a people and a society through the landscape that we are leaving behind. *You Could Feel The Sky* will be on view until December 13, 2024.

Statement from founding Board of Directors:

“We are thrilled to launch the Williamsburg Biennial with *You Could Feel The Sky*. We share Brian Alfred’s commitment to the arts, education, and community. His creative practice exemplifies our mission to promote the arts, interdisciplinary dialogue, and experimentation. Moreover, his graphic style and modern aesthetic beautifully accentuate the architectural design of our art center. We welcome the New York creative community and are excited to open our doors to the world.”



About the artist:

Brian Alfred (b. 1974 in Pittsburgh, PA) received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1997 from Pennsylvania State University and his Master of Fine Arts degree in 1999 from Yale University. He has been the subject of recent solo exhibitions at Miles McEnergy Gallery, New York, NY; Maho Kubota Gallery, Tokyo, Japan; Hezi Cohen Gallery, Tel Aviv, Israel; Salon 94 Video Wall, New York, NY; and the Frist Center for Visual Art, Nashville, TN.

Alfred's work may be found in the collections of the Buffalo AKG Museum, NY; Denver Art Museum, CO; National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, Australia; San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, CA; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York, NY; and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY, among others.

Alfred is the host of SOUND & VISION, a podcast of conversations with artists and musicians about the creative process. Guests have included Diana Al-Hadid, Jules de Balincourt, Inka Essenhigh, Dominique Fung, Kahlil Robert Irving, Byron Kim, Hein Koh, Tony Matelli, Hilary Pecis, James Siena, Alexandria Smith, and Chloe Wise. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

About The Williamsburg Biannual:

The Williamsburg Biannual is a new artist space in Williamsburg, Brooklyn serving the creative community of New York City. The Williamsburg Biannual celebrates the diversity and creativity of the artists and designers practicing in New York City through programs and exhibitions that will be open to the public. Founded by creative professionals working in art and architecture and inspired by the city's rich history of alternative art spaces, the Biannual promotes interdisciplinary dialogue and experimentation.

Located at 333 Kent Avenue, steps from the iconic Williamsburg Bridge and Domino Park, the Williamsburg Biannual's home is an adaptive reuse and expansion of a 1920's 10,000sf warehouse, beautifully designed by JAZ Architect. The Biannual's premises include over 7,500sf of public gathering space, a black box event space for talks, films and music, an informal auditorium and casual seating area, double height galleries and a private outdoor space. Of those, 4,000sf is dedicated art exhibition space, spread over three levels. Natural light throughout the building creates a serene environment, an urban oasis for art viewing, contemplation, discussion, and enjoyment. For more information about The Williamsburg Biannual, visit www.williamsburgbiannual.org.

About Miles McEnergy Gallery:

Miles McEnergy Gallery is a leading contemporary art gallery with four locations occupying 25,000 square feet in the Chelsea district of New York City. Since its inception in 1999, the gallery has grown physically and conceptually, currently representing over 40 multigenerational contemporary artists of diverse backgrounds, media, and practices. Miles McEnergy Gallery is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity, scholarship, and connoisseurship. The gallery publishes significant catalogues to accompany its exhibitions and has been instrumental in the support of artist monographs. Additionally, it regularly assists in the organization of institutional exhibitions and facilitates museum acquisitions. For more information about Miles McEnergy Gallery, visit www.milesmcenergy.com.

For more information, please contact:

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