

MILES

McENERY

GALLERY

TRUDY BENSON

IM/MATERIAL

25 JUNE - 14 AUGUST 2026
511 WEST 22ND STREET

IM/MATERIAL is Trudy Benson's third solo exhibition with Miles McEnergy Gallery, where she creates vibrant kaleidoscopic abstractions. Benson's shape making and spatial logic are understood by the artist conjuring memories of their earliest attempts at abstraction which was done via MacPaint in the 90s. Her work is further shaped by an array of influences, ranging from saturated colors and pop culture imagery to early New York City spray can graffiti.



Her paintings exist somewhere between the digital and analog realm of abstraction. Art historian Natalie Haddad describes this as Benson's "bilingualism" — a comfort with both worlds that allows for fluid movement between them, which extends to visual perception."

The paintings possess a unique painterliness which comes from Benson's considerate understanding of acrylic and oil paint. Benson grounds each painting in a vibrant hue of acrylic paint, then assembles overlapping squares and rectangles in response to each other. In this specific body of work, Benson uses spray paint to create some base layer shapes, a nod to urban graffiti. This culminates in the final layer of forms punctuating the canvas with luscious oil paint.

Haddad writes how Benson "builds her images layer by layer in a process that gestures toward the discrete layers that compose digital art. But the results are resolutely physical, even as she achieves a trompe l'oeil effect that brings hands-on mark making uncannily close to virtual imagery." The exhibition is accompanied by a digital catalogue with an essay by Natalie Haddad.

TRUDY BENSON (b. 1985 in Richmond, VA) received her Master of Fine Arts from the Pratt Institute, Brooklyn, NY and her Bachelor of Fine Arts from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA.

She has been the subject of solo exhibitions at Ceysson & Bénétière, Lyon, France, Saint-Étienne, France, Paris, France, and Luxembourg City, Luxembourg; Galerie Krinzinger, Vienna, Austria; Half Gallery, New York, NY; Lisa Cooley, New York, NY; Lyles & King, New York, NY; Massif Central, Brussels, Belgium; Miles McEnergy Gallery, New York, NY; Ribordy Contemporary, Geneva, Switzerland; and SUNNY NY, New York, NY.

Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Ceysson & Bénétière, Koerich, Luxembourg; Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY; Gaa Projects, Cologne, Germany; Krinzinger Schottenfeld, Vienna, Austria; Miles McEnergy Gallery, New York, NY; m.simons, Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Mother Gallery, Beacon, NY; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Chicago, IL; Museum of Contemporary Art Denver, Denver, CO; Over the Influence, Los Angeles, CA; Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom; and The Hole, East Hampton, NY and New York, NY.

Benson's work may be found in the collections of the Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon; Beth Rudin DeWoody Collection, New York, NY; Hudson Valley MOCA, Peekskill, NY; Portland Museum of Art, Portland, ME; Saatchi Gallery, London, United Kingdom; Schwartz Art Collection, Harvard Business School, Cambridge, MA; and Susan and Michael Hort Collection, New York, NY.

The artist lives and works in the Hudson Valley.

For press inquiries, please contact press@milesmcenergy.com

Image: *The Nerves, 2025*, Acrylic and oil on canvas, 72 x 96 inches.