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For Immediate Release:
FIONA ACKERMAN: *LIZARD BRAINS*

Exhibition dates: February 26 – March 26, 2022



Installation view of "Lizard Brains" by Fiona Ackerman at Gallery Jones.

Gallery Jones is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by **Fiona Ackerman**. For this body of work, Fiona Ackerman relinquished the academic approach to art-making that had contributed to previous exhibitions in favour of a visceral and instinctive method of painting: the show is aptly titled "Lizard Brains". For artists that take a philosophical approach to a subject and use their imagery to explore or illuminate issues, it's possible that the subject can constrain visual expression. Navigating the dynamics of aesthetics and concept is something Ackerman has successfully done throughout her career. In this exhibition, the concept is simply the freedom of expression: the message is in the medium. As an accelerator for the process, Ackerman leaned heavily on music and the musicians in her life. Here is an excerpt from her artist statement:

I see myself as a lone painter in a sea of musicians. My community, closest friends and husband have all been active musicians, filling my world with music. My relationship to music is largely as a vested listener, though sometimes I write songs and perform. What happens in my studio often begins with an intellectual pursuit. Painting becomes a framework through which to explore my interests in philosophy, botanical history, nature, colour and composition.

Beginning this new series, I felt hungry for the freedom of music. Music is visceral and deeply personal. When it works, music comes from somewhere unselfconscious and raw. Abandoning the search for theme and subject, I set out with rolls of blank canvas and no plan. I painted instinctively, trusting impulse, leaning on what popular science calls the Lizard Brain: primitive, unthinking response to stimuli.

The exhibition continues until March 26, 2022.

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