

SKIN

Lani Mitchell's solo show entitled SKIN is an emotive and inspiring body of work that is grounded in an intense visceral, birthed from the energies of her painting technique. The show presents a series of dichotomies; illuminating tensions felt by Mitchell as a contemporary female painter. SKIN embodies a sensibility that speaks to themes of feminine placement and dislocation. In many respects, this show is a statement of assertion.

Mitchell seeks to imbue a sense of ownership over the male dominated abstract painting genre. However, the works are professions of a deeper feminine discord; concerned with exploring notions of sacrifice and lament.

SKIN has been born from intuition, presence and immediacy. The works are symptomatic of experiences and moments that have inspired Mitchell to create beautiful and tormented profusions of experimental colour and movement.

The scale of the works in SKIN are environmental. Mitchell describes the works as 'a playground' of lavishness and indulgence that overwhelm the senses. But amongst the swirls of the paint, that mimic contoured female forms, sensuality and sexuality, a darkness exists. Forms envelop each other and the tension of creating the works from often incredibly emotional experiences are evident in the fluidity.

Our skin represents an intense immediacy - but it also denotes our separation from each other. It presents an exterior facade that houses our sense of self. In this regard, Mitchell's paintings are metaphors for this notion. The paintings are born from the immediacy of the act of creation, but ultimately begin to exist within their own skin, separate from the nurturing of the artist's personal narratives.

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