

## Merlin James

Born: Cardiff, Wales, 1960

Lives and works: Glasgow, Scotland

### Education

- 1978-79 University of Wales Institute, Cardiff, Wales
- 1979-82 Central School of Art, London, England (now Central St. Martins, The London Institute)
- 1983-86 Royal College of Art, London, England - MA, Painting

### Solo Exhibitions

- 2012 Douglas Hyde Gallery, Dublin, Ireland
- 2011 Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY
- 2010 'Frame Paintings', Mummery & Schnelle, London, England
- 2008 'Birds, Places, Other Things' Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
'Merlin James: Paintings' Mummery & Schnelle, London, England
- 2007 Galerie les Filles du Calvaire, Brussels, Belgium  
'Painting to Painting' New York Studio School, New York, NY  
52<sup>nd</sup> International Biennale di Venezia, Venice, Italy, Wales Pavilion  
Galerie les Filles du Calvaire, Paris, France  
'Paintings of Buildings' Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY
- 2006 Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, England
- 2005 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York
- 2004 'Easel Paintings' (catalogue) Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland  
'Easel Paintings' Bay Art, Cardiff, Wales  
'Recent Paintings' (catalogue) Vitamin Arte, Turin, Italy
- 2003 'The Middle Distance' Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
Brent Sikkema, New York, NY (catalogue)  
Prague Biennale, Prague, Czech Republic (catalogue)

- 2002 Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland  
 'Pictures' Ceribelli, Bergamo, Italy  
 'New Compositions' Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, England
- 2001 Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, England  
 Galerie Yves Hoffmann, Paris, France
- 1998 'Painting' (with artist-curated inclusions: Alex Katz; William Nicholson) Wooster Gardens (Brent Sikkema), New York, NY
- 1997 Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery, London, England  
 'Critical Pictures' Andrew Grant Gallery, Edinburgh College of Art, Scotland  
 Wooster Gardens (Brent Sikkema), New York
- 1996 Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, England (exhibition leaflet, interview)  
 'Critical Pictures' Picket Gallery, Kingston University, London, England
- 1995 'Poussin's Phocion' National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales  
 'Poussin's Phocion and Other Works'(catalogue) Standpoint Studios, London, England
- 1991 Albemarle Gallery (Mark Glazebrook), London, England (catalogue)

## Group Exhibitions

- 2011 RHA, Dublin, Ireland  
 'Between My Head and My Hand, There is Always the Face of Death' Philip Feldman Gallery & Project Space at the Pacific Northwest College of Art, Portland, Oregon  
 White Columns, New York, (benefit)
- 2010 'Building on a Cliff' (three person exhibition with Arturo Herrera and Matt Connors) Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY  
 'Le Tableau' (curated by Joe Fyfe), Cheim and Read, New York, NY  
 'Long, Long Gone' Leo Koenig, New York, NY  
 Southside Studios, Glasgow, Scotland (three person show with Tom Varley and Andrew Taylor, curated by Gregor Johnstone)  
 'Another Country' Estorick Collection, London, England  
 Fairfield Building, Glasgow, Scotland  
 'Self-Conscious' (curated by Peter Doig and Hilton Als) Veneklasen Werner, Berlin, Germany  
 'The Beholder's Share' Mummery & Schnelle, London, England
- 2009 'NIGHT' Alexander Gallery, New York, NY  
 'Nus' Fortes Valeca, Sao Paolo, Brazil  
 Galerie Marabini, Bologna, Italy

- 'New Ideas in Abstraction' APSU, Clarkesville, Tennessee  
'Doppo Gobbo' Fluxia Gallery, Milan, Italy
- 2008 '21' Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, NY  
Purdy Hicks Gallery, London, England  
Mummery & Schnelle, London, England
- 2007 'An Eclectic Eye: Selections from the Dan Leach Collection' Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, Arizona,  
'Mutineer' Atelierhaus Mengerzeile, Berlin, Germany  
'Things We Lost in the Fire' Leicester City Art Gallery, Leicester, England
- 2006 'Full House' Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany  
'Things We Lost in the Fire' Transition Gallery, London, England & tour,
- 2005 Galleria Fabjsaglia, Rimini, Italy (catalogue)  
'Things We Lost in the Fire' Art Space Gallery, London, England  
'Interested Painters' Gallery 400, University of Illinois, Chicago, Illinois
- 2004 'Painting Direct' Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany  
'No Particular Place to Go' APT Gallery, London, England  
'The Edge of the Real' White Chapel Gallery, London, England  
'The Five Corners of Painting' artconnexion, Lille, France,  
'Contemporary Painting' (curated by Alex Katz) Colby College Museum of Art, Waterville, Maine
- 2003 'Selected Paintings' MW Projects, London, England  
'Dirty Pictures' Approach Gallery, London, England  
'Yes! I am a long way from home' Herbert Read Gallery, KIAD, Canterbury, England; The Nunnery, London, England  
'The Lazarus Effect' Prague Biennale, Prague, Czech Republic
- 2002 'The Embarkation for Cythera' Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, England  
'Landscape'(catalogue) Saatchi Gallery, London, England  
Felixleiter, Berlin, Germany (with Alex Pollard and Michael Fullerton)  
'Yes! I am a long way from home' Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield, England and tour (catalogue)  
Approach Gallery, London, England
- 2000 'Pure Paint' Stephen Lacey Gallery, London, England  
The Nunnery, London, England  
Andrew Mummery Gallery, London, England  
Brent Sikkema, New York, NY  
'Not Enough' Velan Centre for Contemporary Art, Turin, Italy  
The Approach, London, England
- 1999 Stephen Lacey Gallery, London, England  
'Another Country' Lawrence Rubin Greenberg Van Doren, New York, NY

- 'Don't Smoke in my House' Vicki Tarrant, London, England  
 'River Deep, Mountain High' (catalogue) Westland Place, London, England;  
 University of Dundee, Scotland  
 Thomas Korzelius Gallery, New York, NY (three person drawings show with James Hyde and Joe Fyfe)
- 1998 'East International', (selected by Peter Doig) (catalogue) Norwich, England  
 'Raum' (catalogue) Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria  
 'Critical Faculty' (catalogue) Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
 'Open Drawing' Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education,  
 Cheltenham, England  
 'Open Drawing' DSKG, Berlin, Germany
- 1996 'East End Academy' Whitechapel Gallery, London, England
- 1993 'Quoi de Neuf?' Delsol et Innocenzi, Paris, France
- 1990 Albemarle Gallery (Mark Glazebrook), London, England

## Bibliography

"Between My Head and My Hand There is Always the Image of Death" (pamphlet, text by Kirsten Kennedy), PNCA, Portland, Oregon, 2011.

Schwabsky, Barry, and Morgan Falkiner. *Vitamin P2*. Phaidon Inc, 2011.

Yau, John. "Merlin James, Louise Hopkins." *The Brooklyn Rail* July/August (2010).

Prenderville, Brendan. "Another Country." Estorick Collection, London, England, 2010.

"Self Consciousness" VeneKlasen/Werner, Berlin, Germany, 2010.

Schwabsky, Barry. "Merlin James/Serge Charchoune." *Artforum* February 2009.

Stott, Tim. "Merlin James: Birds, Places and Other Things," *Art Review* January-February 2009, Issue 29.

Francesconi, Luca. "Kallat" (text "Doppo Gobbo"), Fluxia Gallery, Milan, Italy, 2009.

Yao, John. "Merlin James: Paintings of Buildings," *The Brooklyn Rail*, February 2008.

Turvey, Lisa. "Merlin James," *Artforum*, February 2008.

Johnson, Ken. "Merlin James: Paintings of Buildings" *New York Times*, Jan 11, 2008.

Sherman, Sam, "Yes Yes Yes" in *MAP*, Issue 16, Winter 2008/2009.

Mueller, Stephen. "No Kidding," *Gay City News*, 20 December 2007.

Baker, R.C.. "Recommendations," *The Village Voice*, 18 December 2007.

Cohen, David. "Model Agencies", *New York Sun*, 13 December 2007.

Baker, R.C.. "Best in Show: Fightin" Words: Hugh Walton's *Totally Fucked*, Merlin James's *Yellow House*", *The Village Voice*, 11 December 2007.

Macmillan, Duncan. "Review of the Venice Biennale", *The Scotsman*, 15 June 2007.

Goodrich, John. "Merlin James at NY Studio School", *New York Sun*, 8 March 2007.

Firth, Hannah and Michael Nixon, "And so it goes: artists from Wales at the Venice Biennale of Art 2007" (52<sup>nd</sup> International Biennale di Venezia exhibition catalogue).

"An Eclectic Eye: Selections from the Dan Leach Collection, (exhibition catalogue)" Tucson Museum of Art, Tucson, AZ, 2007.

Laurent, Claude. "Explorateur Pictural", *La Libre Belgique*, 21 February 2007.

Legrand, Dominique. "Review", *Le Soir*, Brussels, 31 January 2007.

Firth, Hannah. "Merlin James." Venice Biennale, Venice, Italy, Wales Pavilion, 2007.

Smith, Roberta. "Art in Review; Merlin James", *New York Times*, 20 January 2006.

White, Roger. "Merlin James," *The Brooklyn Rail*, February 2006.

McClister, Neil. "Merlin James", *Artforum*, March 2006.

Coomer, Martin. "Merlin James", *Time Out London*, 12-19 April 2006.

Dalton, Gordon. "Things We Lost in the Fire" (pamphlet) Transition Gallery, London, England, 2006.

Hirsch, Faye, "Easel Pleasures" *Art in America*, April 2006.

Sheets, Hilarie, "Review" *ARTNews*, April 2006.

"Interview with Merlin James." Interview by William Staples. *Blunt Art Text*, Issue 1, 2005.

Pagnesi, Licia. "Merlin James" *Arte Magazine*, Italy, February 2005.

"Paul Bonnaventura and Merlin James in Conversation." Interview by Paul Bonaventura. *V&A Magazine*, London, Spring 2005.

Dunne, Aidan. "Review of Kerlin Gallery Exhibition," *Irish Times*, 25 October 2005.

Cohen, David. "Merlin James; Sikkema Jenkins & Co.", *The New York Sun*, 22 December 2005.

Jones, Peter. "Merlin James" *Turps Banana*, London, Issue 1, 2005.

Lee, Jane. "White Window" (text documenting "The Five Corners of Painting", artconnectionlille) Canterbury, England, 2005.

McDonald, Gary. "Conscious Fictions", *Miser and Now Magazine*, London, 2005.

Lauter, Rolf and William Feaver. "Painting Direct," Kunsthalle Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany, 2005.

Leventis, Andreas. "Side Longing" in *Miser and Now Magazine*, London, Issue 5, 2005.

Bonacossa, Ilaria. "Merlin James: Recent Paintings," Vitamin Arte, Turin, Italy, 2004.

Hare, Bill. "Review of Talbot Rice Gallery Exhibition," *Galleries Magazine*, March 2004.

"Review of Talbot Rice Gallery Exhibition" *The List*, Scotland, March 2004.

Mansfield, Susan. "Review of Talbot Rice Gallery Exhibition," *The Scotsman*, 25 March 2004.

Pagnesi, Licia. "Londra," *Arte Magazine*, Italy, June 2004.

McDonald, Gary. "Article on Merlin James," *Miser and Now Magazine*, London, Issue 3, 2004.

"Review of Vitamin Arte Exhibition," *Exhibart*, Europe, December 2004.

"Merlin James: Easel Paintings", Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2004.

Neel, Jane. "Review of Andrew Mummery Gallery Exhibition," *Contemporary*, Issue 55, 2003.

Healy, Jim. "Review of Andrew Mummery Gallery Exhibition," *What's On London*, 2 May, 2003.

Coomer, Martin. "Review of Andrew Mummery Gallery Exhibition," *Time Out*, 28 May, 2003.

Buck, Louisa. "Review of Andrew Mummery Gallery Exhibition," *The Art Newspaper*, June, 2003.

"Yes! I am a long way from home," Huddersfield Art Gallery, Huddersfield, England, 2003.

"The Lazarus Effect", Prague, Czech Republic, 2003.

Kay, Emma. "Review of Approach Exhibition," *Contemporary Visual Art*, January, 2002.

Dunne, Aidan. "Review of Kerlin Gallery Exhibition," *The Irish Times*, 18 January, 2002.

Schjeldahl, Peter. "Review Notice of Brent Sikkema Gallery Exhibition," *The New Yorker*, 17 June, 2002.

Naves, Mario. "Review of Brent Sikkema Gallery Exhibition," *New York Observer*, 21 June 2002.

Bonacossa, Ilaria. "Pictures" Lubrina Editore/Brent Sikkema/Cerebelli, New York, NY & Bergamo, Italy, 2002.

Coomer, Martin. "Review of Andrew Mummery Gallery Exhibition," *Time Out*, 7 February, 2001.

Sheets, Hilarie. "Reinventing the Landscape (Discussion of Merlin James' paintings)," *Art News*, March 2001.

Dagen, Philippe. "La peinture en Grande Forme", (review of Yves Hoffmann Gallery Exhibition)," *Le Monde*, 11 June 2001.

"Conversation on Drawing with Joe Fyfe and James Hyde," *Modern Painters*, Autumn 1999.

"Conversation: Merlin James and James Hyde." Interview. *Journal of Contemporary Art Inc.* 1999. Web. [http://www.jca-online.com/hyde\\_james.html](http://www.jca-online.com/hyde_james.html).

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Schwabsky, Barry. "Suddenly This Summer," *Art in America*, October 1999.

Johnson, Ken. "Notice," *New York Times*, 22 October 1999.

Smith, Kier. "River Deep, Mountain High," Westland Place, London, 1999.

"Landscape," Saatchi Gallery, 1999.

Cohen, D. "Review of Francis Graham-Dixon exhibition," *Art in America*, February 1998.

"Interview with Merlin James." Interview by Jane Lee. *Transcript Magazine* 1998.

Buckman, David. Entry: "Merlin James," *Dictionary of Artists in Britain Since 1945*. London: Art Dictionaries, 1998.

Glazebrook, Mark. "Review of Francis Graham-Dixon exhibition," *Galleries*, July 1998.  
"Opening Drawing", CGCHE Cheltenham, England, 1998.

"Critical Faculty" (text by C. Horrocks), GVSU Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1998.

Coomer, Martin. "Review of Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery exhibition," *Time Out*, 25 February 1997.

Coomer, Martin. "Review of Francis Graham-Dixon Gallery exhibition," *Flash Art*, July 1997.

Lee, Jane. "Persistently Painting" *a-n Magazine*, July 1996.

Cohen, D. "Painting with Attitude," *The Independent*, 27 August, 1996.

Cruz, Juan. "Merlin James: Critical Pictures" Picker Gallery, Kingston University, 1996.

Darracott, J. "Report of National Museum of Wales exhibition" *Museum News*, Spring 1996.

Wallis, Simon. "Merlin James" (exhibition leaflet, interview with Merlin James) Kettle's Yard, Cambridge, 1996.

Cohen, David. "A Fine Anxiety," *Modern Painters*, Spring 1995.

"Review of Albemarle Gallery exhibition" *Art Line*, Summer 1991.

Cornall, John. "Night-Time Interiors (review)", *The London Magazine*, June 1991.

James, Merlin. "Random Notes, (reproductions and statement)," *The London Magazine*, August/September 1988.

### **Authored Books, Published Lectures & Catalogues**

James, Merlin. "Serge Charchoune" (exhibition monograph), Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, forthcoming.

James, Merlin. "Alex Katz" (exhibition catalogue), James Cohan Gallery, Shanghai, 2011.

James, Merlin. "William Nicholson" (catalogue raisonne), Modern Art Press, London, 2011.

James, Merlin. "Live Undead" (exhibition brochure), Transmission Gallery, Glasgow, 2008.

James, Merlin. "Serge Charchoune" (exhibition catalogue), Mummery & Schnelle, London, 2008.

James, Merlin. "Carol Rhodes" (exhibition catalogue), Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Edinburgh, 2007.

James, Merlin. "Alex Katz, Cartoons and Paintings," Albertina Museum, Vienna, 2005.

"Contemporary Painting" (artist's statement), Colby College Art Gallery, Waterville, Maine, 2005.

"Short Stories About Painting" (text by the artist), University of the Arts, London, England, 2005.

"William Nicholson" (exhibition catalogue, essay by Merlin James) Royal Academy of Arts, London, 2004.

James, Merlin. "Painting per se", (published lecture), Cooper Union School of Art, New York, 2002.

James, Merlin. "Morandi: The Collector's Eye" (exhibition catalogue, main essay by Merlin James), Estorick Collection, London, 2001.

James, Merlin. "Alex Katz: The Woodcuts and Linocuts" (exhibition catalogue, essay by Merlin James), Peter Blum Editions, New York, 2001.

James, Merlin. "Lowry's People" (exhibition catalogue text), The Lowry Centre, Salford, 2000.

James, Merlin. "Lowry's Places" (exhibition catalogue text), The Lowry Centre, Salford, 2000.

James, Merlin. "Edges" (Etchings by Alex Katz, poem by Robert Creeley, essay by Merlin James), Peter Blum Editions, New York, 1999.

James, Merlin. "East International" (artist's statement), Norwich, England, 1999.

"Raum", (notebook texts by the artist), Künstlerhaus, Vienna, Austria, 1998.

James, Merlin and David Sylvester. *Alex Katz : Twenty-Five years of Painting*, The Saatchi Gallery, London, 1997.

James, Merlin. *The Non-Existence of Art Criticism (the 1996 Stanley Picker Lecture, Tate Gallery; New York Studio School; Kingston University)*, London: Kingston University Press, 1996.

James, Merlin. *David Jones, 1895-1974: A Map of the Artist's Mind*. London: Lund Humphries, 1995.

"Poussin's Phocion and other work" (text by the artist, limited edition print), Standpoint Studios, London, England, 1995.

"Poussin"s Phocion," (hand list, text by the artist) National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, Wales, 1995.

James, Merlin. *Engaging Images: "Practical Criticism" and Visual Art*. London: Menard/Kings College, 1992.

"Merlin James" (text by the artist) Albemarle Gallery, London, 1991.

### **Curatorial Projects:**

- 2012 'Other Modernisms: Serge Charchoune (1889-1975),' Smart Museum of Art, University of Chicago, Illinois; Talbot Rice Gallery, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- 2009 'Primitif Compliqué, Galerie Les Filles du Calvaire, Brussels, Belgium
- 2008 'Serge Charchoune,' Mummery & Schnelle, London, England
- 2005 'Incorrigible, Sentimental,' Kerlin Gallery, Dublin, Ireland

### **Posts Held:**

- 2002 Alex Katz Chair in Painting, Cooper Union School of Art  
New York, USA
- 1997-2000 Associate Editor, The Burlington Magazine  
(editor for modern and contemporary period)
- 1996 Critic in Residence, Kingston University, London, England  
Artist in Residence, Glasgow School of Art, Glasgow, Scotland