

Ian Rayer-Smith: The Whole Is a Fragment

September 18th - October 31, 2025

315 Grant Avenue

San Francisco



Ian Rayer-Smith, *Deeper*, 54" x 54"

San Francisco – Gefen Gallery is pleased to present a new body of work by Ian Rayer-Smith at its 315 Grant Avenue location in San Francisco. On view from September 18 through October 31, 2025, this solo exhibition, *The Whole Is a Fragment*, marks the artist's return to Gefen Gallery this fall with a sweeping takeover of the entire exhibition space - a crescendo of color, mark-making, and scale.

Featuring monumental works from several of his acclaimed series, including *Misdemeanour* and *Trampling Over the Classics*, the exhibition reads as a visual autobiography through abstraction. Known for his dynamic brushwork and classically infused chaos, Rayer-Smith's paintings inhabit a space between control and surrender. Each canvas pulses with urgency yet carries the resonance of ancient echoes - modern-day cave paintings charged with emotion, sensuality, and freedom.

The Whole Is a Fragment is not merely a survey - it is a declaration. A rare opportunity to experience the full physicality of his practice, where instinct meets intellect on a grand scale. As Rayer-Smith himself explains: "I'm not painting what exists. I'm painting the act of being alive."

Ian Rayer-Smith (b. 1970, England) is a contemporary painter whose work blends gestural abstraction with classical references. Drawing on art history, the human form, and the emotional power of color and mark-making, his paintings explore the tension between control and spontaneity. Rayer-Smith's work has been exhibited internationally and is held in private collections across Europe, North America, and Asia. He lives and works in Manchester, UK.

Gefen Gallery embarked on a transformative journey. With our inaugural exhibitions, we endeavored to showcase international emerging artists alongside more established figures of Contemporary and Modern Art. Through the unwavering support of collectors, artists, supporters, and the dedicated gallery staff, this journey has grown and flourished over the years. Our expansion now encompasses three distinctive locations.

Within our artistic realm, we curate a diverse range of mediums, encompassing painting, drawing, sculpture, installation, photography, and video. Our aim is to nurture the connections that bridge emerging talents with more established artists, fostering a harmonious dialogue between different creative epochs. Our roster features over twenty international emerging artists. In parallel, we represent esteemed artists, each imprinting their unique essence onto our collective artistic narrative.

Since our inception in 2018, our unwavering commitment has been to offer foundations and art enthusiasts access to a meticulously curated selection of Modern and Contemporary artists. This commitment finds its expression in our thoughtfully designed exhibitions across all our locations and at art fairs. Yet, our role transcends that of mere curators; we stand as collaborators with collectors, aiding them in building extraordinary art collections. Furthermore, we take pride in facilitating special projects and the creation of large-scale, site-specific sculptures that enrich both public and private spaces. Our dedication remains unswerving: to bring the pinnacle of Modern and Contemporary artistic expression to our collectors with the highest levels of integrity and discernment.

Press Inquiries

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