

Pilar Corrias

Press Release

A place for modernism
14 March–10 May 2025

Pilar Corrias
Savile Row



Arlene Shechet, *Together, At Sunrise*, 2024. Courtesy of the Artist. Photography by David Schulze.

The group exhibition *A place for modernism* brings together five artists, all based on or near the East Coast of the US, whose work responds to the wide-ranging legacy of modernism. Rather than treat the movement as a closed historical episode, **Josiah McElheny, Carrie Moyer, Hasani Sahlehe, Arlene Shechet, and Dan Walsh** view modernism as a perennial method that can be adapted to address the political and aesthetic questions of the present day.

A place for modernism proposes that our engagement with an artwork is a model for how we engage with the world at large, hence the emphasis on the principles of colour, form, ambiguity and perspective. With its geometrical arrangement and primary colours, Josiah McElheny's sculpture *Chromatic Modernism (Blue, Yellow, Red)* (2008) stands in the gallery as a model of the movement. Examining viewpoints, literal and metaphorical, McElheny suggests a multiplicity of histories, thus granting the viewer a radical interpretative responsibility.

The painter Carrie Moyer revels in contaminating high modernism with imagery, illusion, brash colour or splashes of glitter, 'reimagining its strategies and undermining its assumptions from [her] position on the margin as a woman, a feminist, and a lesbian'. Introducing elements of 'beauty, seduction and play' into the history of abstraction, Moyer wants the viewer to experience the painting as a kind of living organism. Modernism becomes a space for renewal in Arlene Shechet's hands, too. As its title suggests, her work *There Then Now and Again* (2024) feels suffused with time and life, as if it were a Cubist painting that dropped from the wall, came alive and reinvented itself as sculpture.

Demand (2022), a painting by Dan Walsh, similarly seems to emerge from another era, future or past. A pyramid constructed of interlocking red, orange and green ovals and suspended in a pink halo, Walsh's work looks like a monument to a lost episode of modernism. With their wobbly edifices of joyful colour, the paintings of Hasani Sahlehe uplift the viewer, transforming their experience of space. Between the bars, washes of pale colour create a sense of vertiginous space, as if the painting is climbing into the stratosphere, held together by the internal gravity of the colour blocks. The painting seems to continue both top and bottom, as if it represents a fragment of a perpetual ascent. To this end, *A place for modernism* proposes a rewriting of modernism as a never-ending story about how to look, think and feel about the world we inhabit.

+44 (0)20 7323 7000
info@pilarcorrias.com

51 Conduit Street
London W1S 2YT

2 Savile Row
London W1S 3PA

For all press enquiries,
please contact:
Katrina Millar
+44 (0)7769 775 651
katrina@pilarcorrias.com

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Josiah McElheny (b. 1966) lives and works in New York City. Recent solo exhibitions have been hosted at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (2024); Cantor Art Center at Stanford University, California (2019); Moody Centre for the Arts at Rice University, Houston (2018); Madison Square Park, New York (2017); Museum of Applied Art, Vienna (2016); Wexner Center for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2013); The Arts Club of Chicago (2013); Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2012) and Whitechapel Gallery, London (2011).

Carrie Moyer (b. 1960) lives and works in Brooklyn. Recent solo exhibitions have been hosted at the Museum of Arts and Design, New York (2021); Portland Museum of Art, Maine (2020); Canzani Center Gallery, Columbus College of Art and Design, Ohio (2014); SCAD Museum of Art, Savannah, Georgia (2014); The Frances Young Tang Teaching Museum and Art Gallery, Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, New York (2013) and Worcester Art Museum, Massachusetts (2012).

Hasani Sahlehe (b. 1991) lives and works in Atlanta, Georgia. Recent solo exhibitions have been hosted at CANADA, New York (2024); MARCH, New York (2024); Adams and Ollman, Portland, Oregon (2023); Atlanta Contemporary, Atlanta, Georgia (2023); Laney Contemporary, Savannah, Georgia (2022); Gallery 106 Green, New York (2021); Resort, Baltimore, Maryland (2020); MINT, Atlanta, Georgia (2019). His work is in the collection of The High Museum and the Georgia Museum of Art. Sahlehe is a recipient of a 2023 MacDowell Fellowship.

Arlene Shechet lives and works in New York City and the Hudson Valley. Recent solo exhibitions have been hosted at Storm King Art Center, New York (2024); Pace Gallery, New York (2022); The Drawing Center, New York (2021); Madison Square Park, New York (2018); The Frick Collection, New York (2016); The Phillips Collection, Washington, D.C. (2016) and The Institute of Contemporary Art, Boston (2015).

Dan Walsh (b. 1960) lives and works in New York City. Walsh's work has been exhibited in venues throughout the U.S. and Europe, including the Museum of Modern Art and the New Museum, New York; the Bonnefanten Museum, Maastricht; the Centre national d'art contemporain, Nice; The Rhode Island School of Design Art Museum, Providence; and The Musée d'Art Moderne et Contemporain, Geneva, Switzerland.

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