

Tomas Spicer: Freedom Verses

Opening Reception: Friday 6th December 6-8pm

Exhibition dates: 6th December-8th December 2024

House Work Presents

Regents Estate

London

E84SH

In "Freedom Verses," Tomas Spicer unveils a compelling new body of work that intricately continues his exploration of painting, drawing, and material inquiry. This collection serves as a means to navigate the complex terrains of time, perception, and human experience. Utilizing a diverse array of materials—including oil paints, crayons, pencils, cotton rag paper, and canvas—Spicer adopts an instinctive, automatic approach to mark-making. His process boldly embraces dramatic shifts in color, intentional erasure, and the reconfiguration of forms, allowing each piece to evolve through a dynamic interplay of presence and flux. This approach captures a palpable sense of urgency and transformation, mirroring the inherent instability and rapid pace of contemporary existence.

Central to this exhibition is "Stormy Days" (2024–), an ongoing series of dual-panel drawings that evoke the ever-shifting atmospheres of time and mood. These works operate as visual verses—gestural notations that resonate with rhythm, movement, and an unfolding narrative. Through a careful manipulation of tone, texture, and structural composition, Spicer engages with the passage of time, balancing ephemeral impressions with moments of sustained intensity, crafting an emotive dialogue between the viewer and the art. The diptych format enhances this sense of transition, reflecting the cyclical nature of thought and perception, where each panel interacts as part of a greater whole.

The exhibition's title, "Freedom Verses," captures Spicer's ongoing interrogation of art as a language that transcends mere words—a vibrant space for meaning-making that resonates on a visceral level rather than being confined to verbal articulation. "Verse" refers to the compositional rhythms intrinsic to both poetry and song, embodying a form of storytelling that is fluid and dynamic. "Freedom," on the other hand, signals an unbounded exploration of both material and conceptual spaces, allowing for limitless possibilities and interpretations. Together, these themes underscore Spicer's profound engagement with painting as an embodied act, one that resists categorization and remains in a constant state of dialogue with the shifting conditions of the world.

Through his distinctive manipulation of surface, gesture, and spatial tension, Spicer articulates a practice that is both profoundly physical and deeply philosophical. He investigates the fluidity of time, the intricacies of sensation, and the transformative potential inherent in art itself, inviting viewers to reflect on their own experiences within this ever-changing landscape.

Tomas Spicer (b. 1988, London), lives and works in London. Recent exhibitions include: *Readers*, MFA Studios Asquith Gibbs Building, London, UK, (2024); *Propositions*, MFA Studios Asquith Gibbs Building, London, UK, (2024) and, *Prologue*, Des Bains, London, UK, (2023).