

# shfap

Press release:

Peter Acheson: *White Album*

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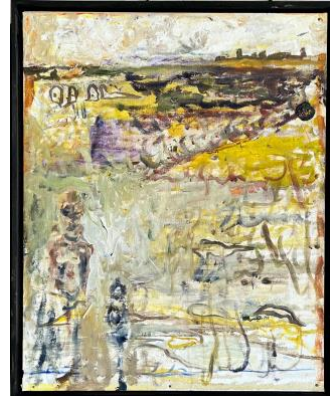
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SHFAP presents *White Album*, a solo exhibition of paintings by Peter Acheson. The paintings in the exhibition share a common tonality keyed towards white. Acheson's visual language oscillates between familiarity and obscurity, energetic motion and stillness, and abstraction and enigmatic symbols.

Acheson generally employs a small format, which is part of his refusal of the grand scale of much contemporary art. The dynamic textures of his paintings are created with his thick and layered application of paint. By incorporating found objects, such as seashells and pieces of wood, Acheson breaks the evenness of his painterly surfaces. The organic, rough quality of the paintings is balanced with a profound lyric voice created through his painterly gestures of swirling lines and his occasional addition of text. The words Acheson incorporates in his work are often derived from poetry, music, and art history, and are painted in loose, looping brushstrokes.

John Yau has written: “Acheson has continually found another way to put paint on a surface, as well as initiate dialogues with other artists, both living and dead. Aware of his own mortality, and of how art can speak across time, he has made works memorializing a wide range of figures.”

The texts suggest meanings that preserve their ambiguity. The symbol-like shapes found in Acheson's work further the magical quality of his paintings. The forms are reminiscent of ancient symbols from diverse cultures. Acheson's paintings elude clear definitions, allowing the viewer their own interpretations.

Acheson was born in Washington, D.C., where he grew up with Chris Martin. Acheson received a BFA from Yale in 1976 and came to note in the 1980s as part of a generation of abstract painters working in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, including Chris Martin and Katherine Bradford. Acheson's work has been exhibited at The Novella Gallery and John Davis Gallery in Hudson. SFHAP presented Acheson in group exhibitions in 2013 and 2014. Acheson had a one-person show in SHAP's rear gallery in 2013 that was documented in James Kalm's video interview with the artist. In 2021, his work was shown by SFHAP at NADA x FORELAND, as well as at the gallery in a two-person show with Gandy Brodie. Acheson lives and works in Ghent, NY.