



Untitled (121), 2020, Acrylic & flashe on canvas, 121 x 90"

JEREMY DePREZ

In the Studio

I live in Brooklyn, New York, and as a result of the pandemic I have been locked down in my home since the middle of March and unable to go to my studio. The studio has always been more of a work/production environment for me as opposed to a creative/thinking space so with a certain level of guilt, I have to admit that the forced separation has been a fairly productive period of time. I've been spending a lot of that time sitting around drawing, watching, reading, etc., which to be honest is what I often do anyways (as I tend to be hermetically inclined), so my day to day hasn't shifted all that much.



All of this time at home has allowed for some much needed refocusing, which in New York can be hard due to the simple fact that setting up your routine and moving throughout the day involves very little flexibility. That lack of flexibility has proved to be a very significant personal difficulty over the past couple of years. The "pause" has allowed me to sit back, reflect and work out ideas that have been gestating for some time so when I can return to the studio I'll have a laundry list of new painting based avenues to explore



I've also had time to think about my role as an artist who operates in a public way and what my responsibilities are as a white male with privilege in a climate that excludes people of color from participating as collectors, dealers, curators and artists. I spent the majority of my childhood growing up in rural South Carolina, so thinking and questioning aspects of myself regarding race and privilege have always been a big part of my life. As I have evolved into a working, professional artist it became an even more prescient series of questions. With centuries of systemic oppression coming to a head once again, I can't help but ask myself what I can do in the future both as an artist and as a human being to change the all too familiar and frustrating narrative we are collectively witness to.



Trippy Vortex, 2019, Acrylic on canvas, 92 x 85"

As I write this it is my hope that other artists, collectors, dealers and curators ask themselves similar questions, not just today at the height of emotion, but every day from here on out. It isn't about generating band-aids and systemically ignoring tough situations, it's about creating real solutions and collectively discussing issues consistently, with empathy and without pause. I don't have answers, but questions and active questioning are sometimes more significant and productive than the answers we seek. The latter is a truth that all artists come to eventually realize, and something I hope humans collectively can come to realize in the art community and beyond. - Jeremy DePrez



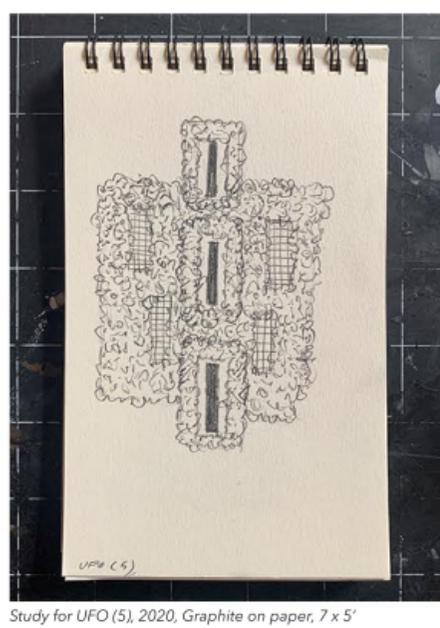
Untitled, 2020, Ink on paper, 12 x 9"



Untitled, 2020, Ink on paper, 12 x 9"



Assorted graphite drawings, 2020



Study for UFO (5), 2020, Graphite on paper, 7 x 5"



Untitled, 2019, Acrylic & flashe on canvas, 74 x 80"