

## Press Release



### **Eric Butcher | Shadow Archive**

30 Sept - 18 Oct 2025

GPS Gallery, 36 Great Pulteney Street, London, W1F 9NS

Private View: 01 Oct 6 - 8pm

Eric Butcher will be showing new works from his radical *Endgame* series at GPS Gallery 30 Sept - 18 Oct 2025.

After 25 years devoted to the patient and incremental development of a practice of reductive, self-referential process-based painting, Butcher's work changed dramatically in 2020. "Confronted by the devastating impact of human behaviour on the planet, my former studio practice began to seem deeply problematic and self-indulgent. What was it that my work consisted of but taking precious resources and turning them into useless objects?"

A process of investigation into the parameters of his own practice, and an attempt at its systematic deconstruction ensued. He pulled his previous works apart, both intellectually and physically, peeling the skins of paint from their supports and categorising them according to a basic taxonomy. In so doing he subjected his entire practice to a sort of forensic examination. The resulting skins, fragments and traces of paint are presented sandwiched between sheets of glass like specimens. They provide a record or index of past artistic endeavours, a 'natural history' of his creative self.

*Endgame* is the modus operandi of all Butcher's current and future creative work. He has committed to use only those materials already available in the studio; using up, repurposing and recycling what he already has without consuming more. He will draw out his use of current

resources for as long as possible, being as frugal as he can and when he has run out of materials he will simply **stop making art**.

*Shadow Archive* will be the first opportunity to see an extensive range of works from this new and challenging series.

“Eric Butcher is a rare one, an artist who sees his practice as part of a much bigger picture. His *Endgame*, which anticipates his retirement is a radical proposition, encouraging us to think at least twice about what art is for”. Jonathan Watkins

**The exhibition will be accompanied by an essay by Jonathan Watkins and, on the 8 Oct, a public ‘in conversation’ between Eric Butcher and artist/writer David Batchelor.**

### **About the Artist**

Born in Singapore in 1970, Eric Butcher studied Philosophy at Cambridge University and Painting at Wimbledon School of Art. He has exhibited extensively in the UK and internationally with shows in Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Australia and the USA. Recent work has been shortlisted for the Trinity Buoy Wharf Drawing Prize, the Contemporary British Painting Prize, the Ruskin Art Prize and the Derwent Drawing Prize. He has been the recipient of awards from Art London, the Arts Council, England, the Arts and Humanities Research Board, the Arts Institute at Bournemouth, the Centre for Art International Research, Liverpool and East Anglia Art Fund. He has work in public and private collections worldwide, including Aviva, London; Crédit du Nord, Lille; Davis, Polk & Wardwell, Paris & Madrid; Deutsche Rentenversicherung, Hanover; Invesco, London, Linklaters, London & Brussels; Majestic Insurance, San Francisco, Meravis Hanover & Hamburg; the Open University, Milton Keynes; Schlumberger, London; Selescope, Paris; Société Générale, London. He lives and works in Oxfordshire.

### **Press Enquiries**

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