

Devening Projects

MICHELLE BRANDEMUEHL

Ready for Use

January 5 - February 8, 2025

Devening Projects

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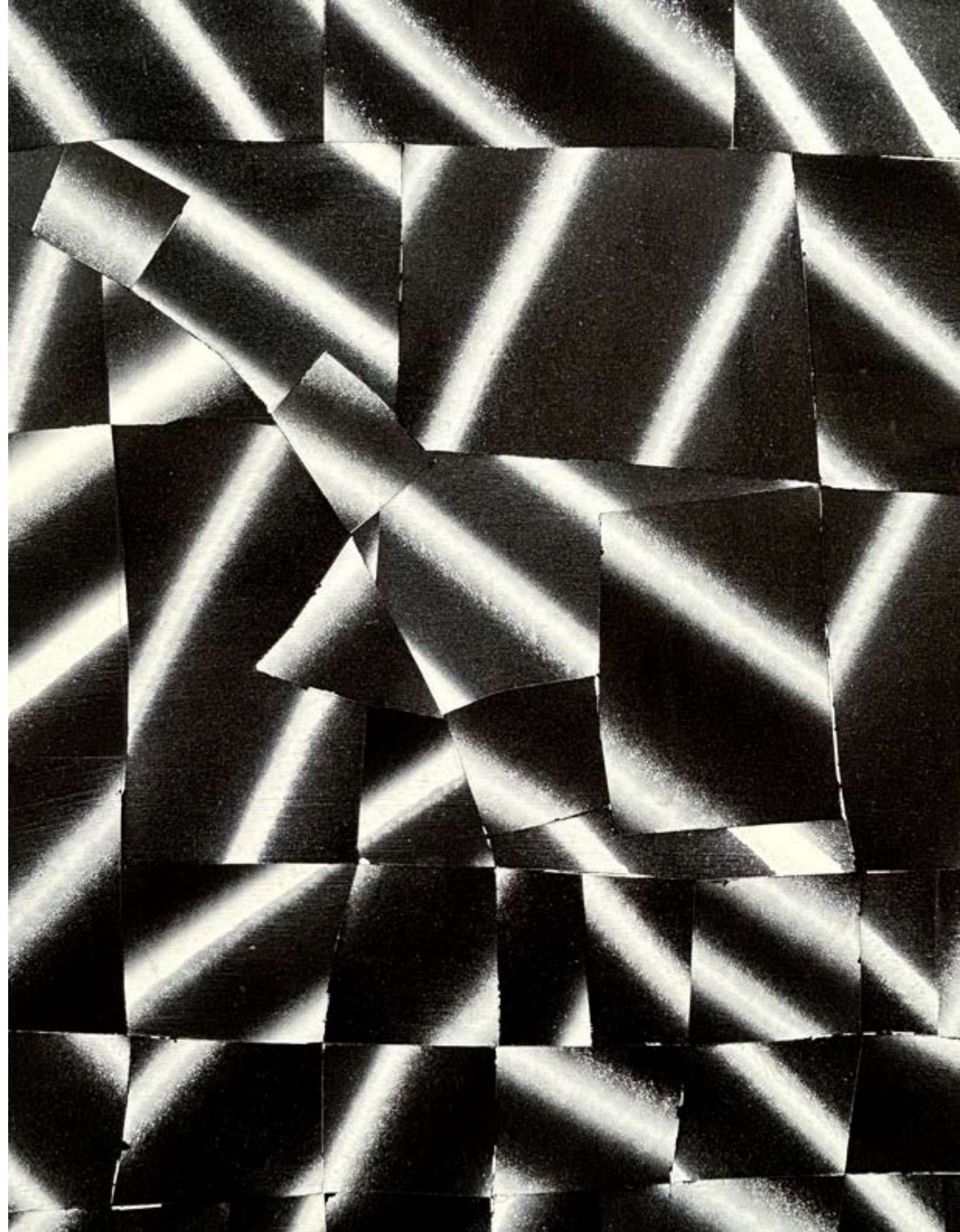
Devening Projects is pleased to present the first solo show at the gallery with Michelle Brandemuehl. *Ready for Use* features paintings from the past three years. The exhibition opens on Sunday, January 5 from 3 to 5PM and will continue until February 8, 2025

In Michelle Brandemuehl's recent paintings, humble formal devices are elevated to symbols of reverence and regality. The visual strength of the paintings stems from Brandemuehl's ability to steady a composition through subversive deconstruction. Organized around familiar structural systems that are deftly fractured, these compositions come to life by infusing energy into what initially feels askew. Broken lines, mismatched patterns, and misaligned grids—each element contributes to the dynamic tension of the work. It is through this unsettled, almost nervous quality that the paintings reveal their vitality.

Brandemuehl is a materialist. If the term accurately describes an artist deeply attuned to the formal necessity of the making process, she is the epitome of such an artist. Her practice involves deep dives into experimentation, with careful attention to the individuality of each step and gestural move. Brandemuehl often relies on restraint and minimal form as points of entry, exploring the relationship between subtlety and the sublime. She is fascinated by the interplay of opposites and how two opposing forces can occupy the same space, as explored through her choice of materials: the grit of paint on linen, black on white, the defined lines of the rectangle, and the soft glow of spray paint. These contradictions shape the work, as the materials and structure she selects form an emotional architecture that invites the viewer into a dialogue, encouraging exploration of these paradoxes.

In *Ready for Use* — inspired by Richard Tuttle's quote "*Pictures... you don't want them to be finished, you want them ready for use*" — Brandemuehl's new work carries a sense of being "al dente," with something held back, unrevealed, close to but not quite done. Through restraint and minimal mark-making, she searches for something unseen, relying on repetition and chance. The work invites the viewer to trust their intuition and interpretation of abstraction and the unknown.

Michelle Brandemuehl (b. 1972) is a painter who splits her time between rural Illinois and Brooklyn, NY. From 1990 to 1995, she studied painting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her work has been exhibited in the United States and internationally at venues such as Ulterior Gallery (New York), Milk Gallery (New York), and ATA Gallery (San Francisco), among others. She has been awarded residencies at Can Serrat, Barcelona, Spain; PADA Studios, Lisbon, Portugal; the Edward F. Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY; and CCA Residency, Brooklyn, NY.

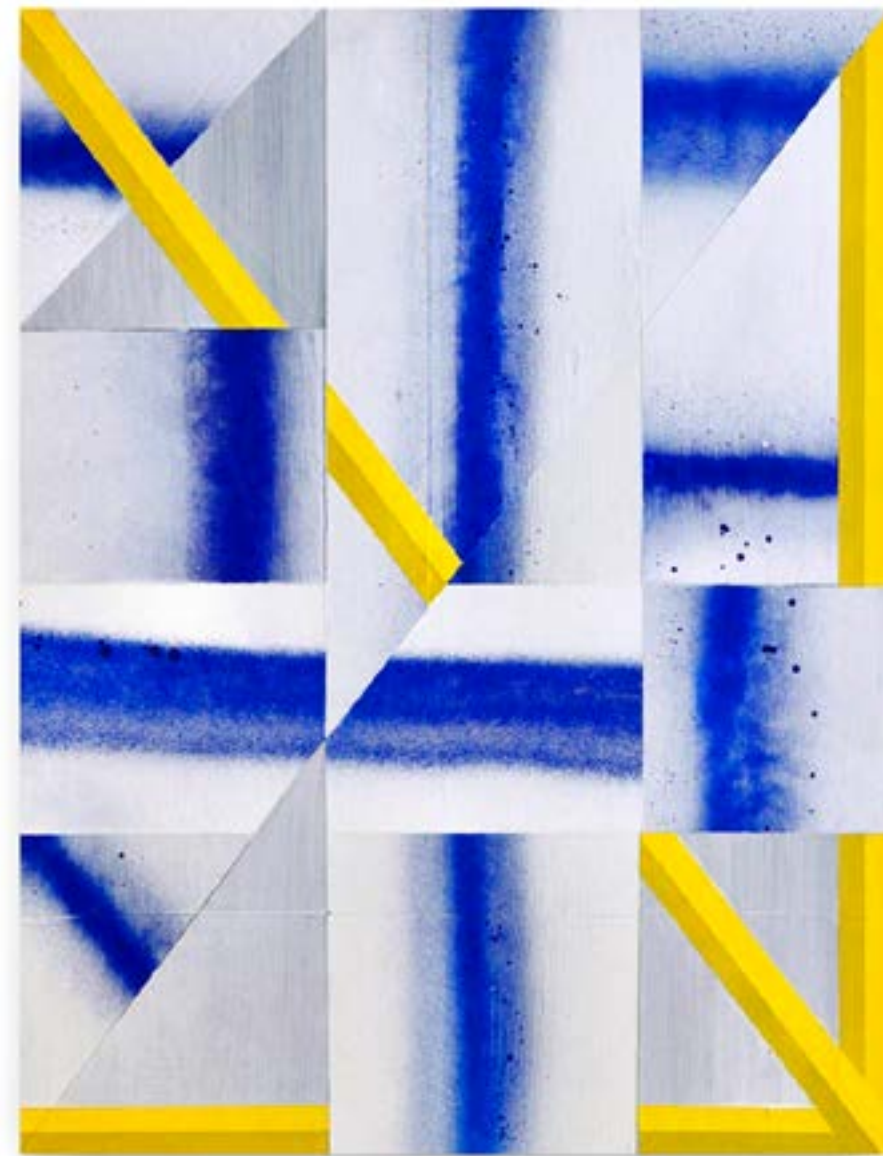




Get Got, 2021, acrylic and spray paint on panel, 30 x 24 inches
\$3400

3.



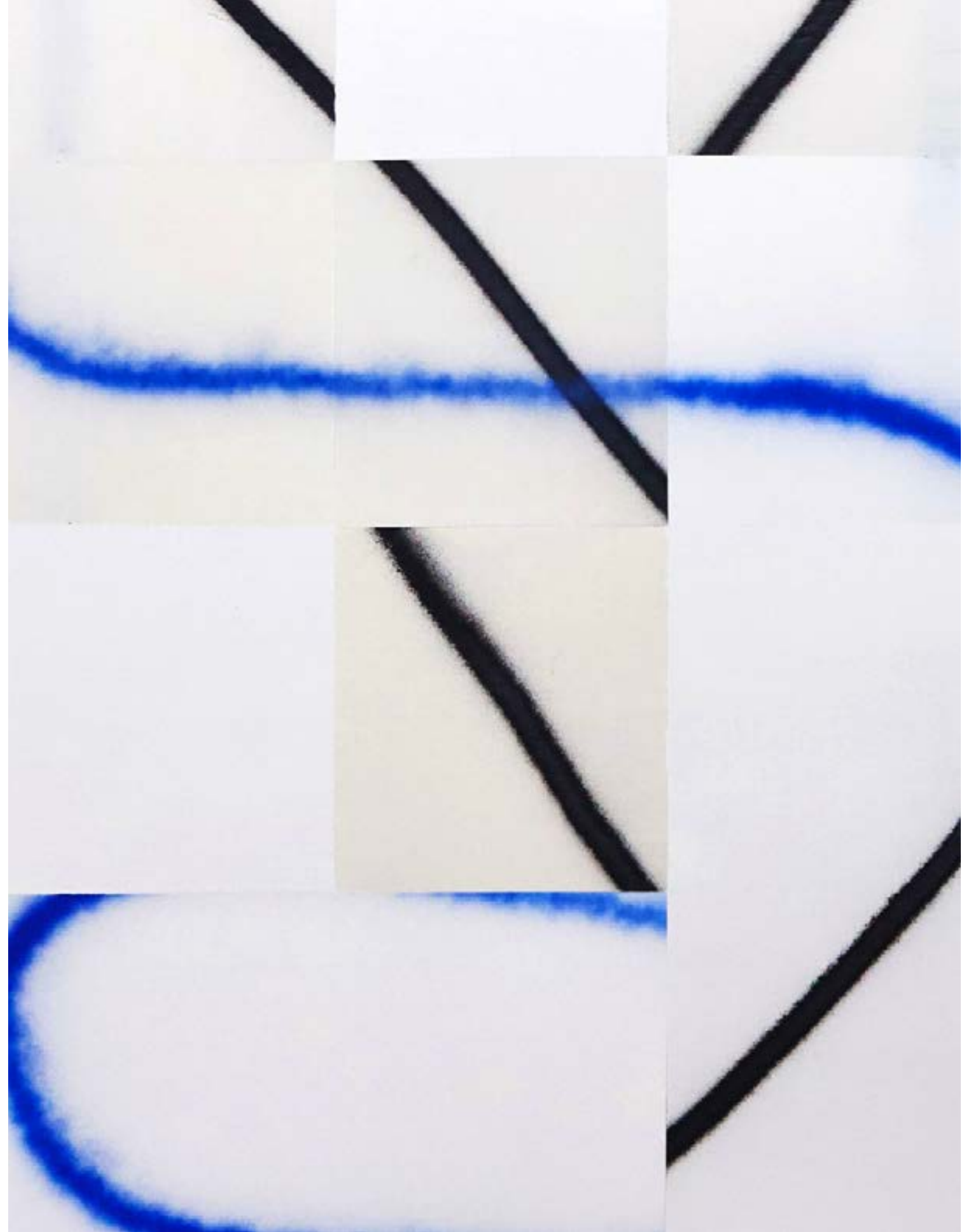


Slow Devotion, 2023, acrylic and spray paint on panel, 20 x 16 inches
\$2400

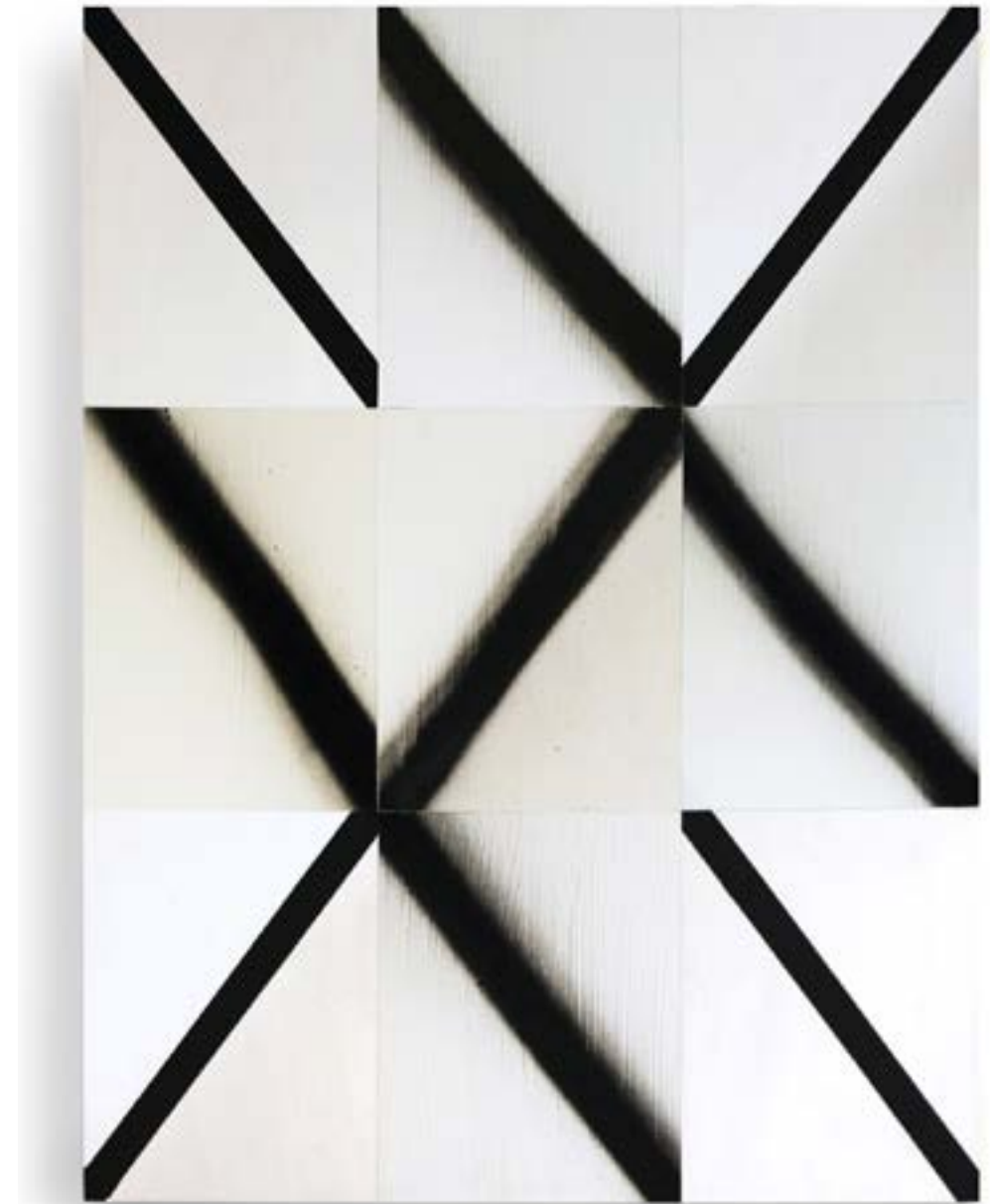
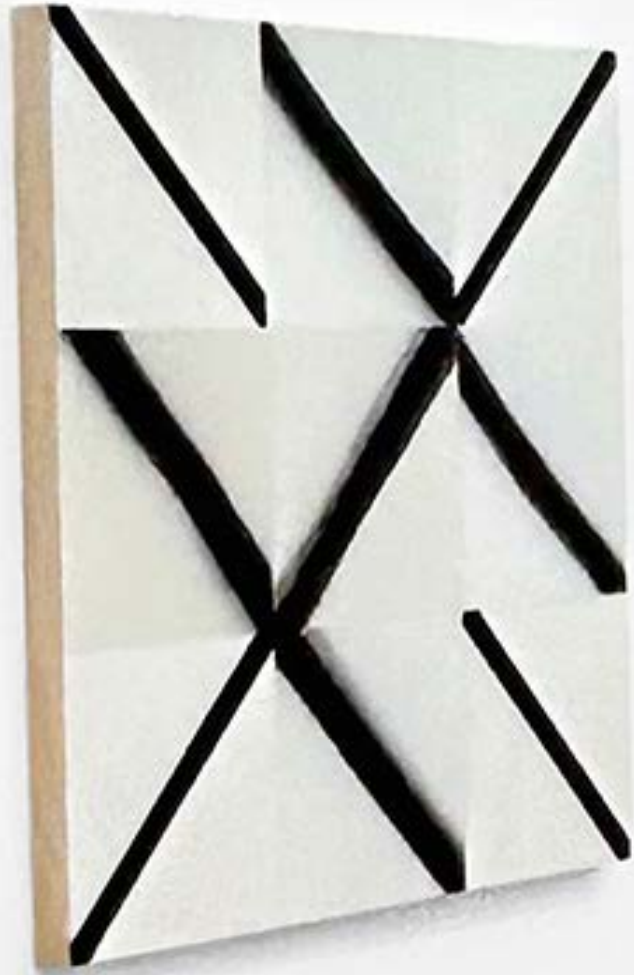


Cheeky, 2023, acrylic and spray paint on panel, 20 x 16 inches
\$2400



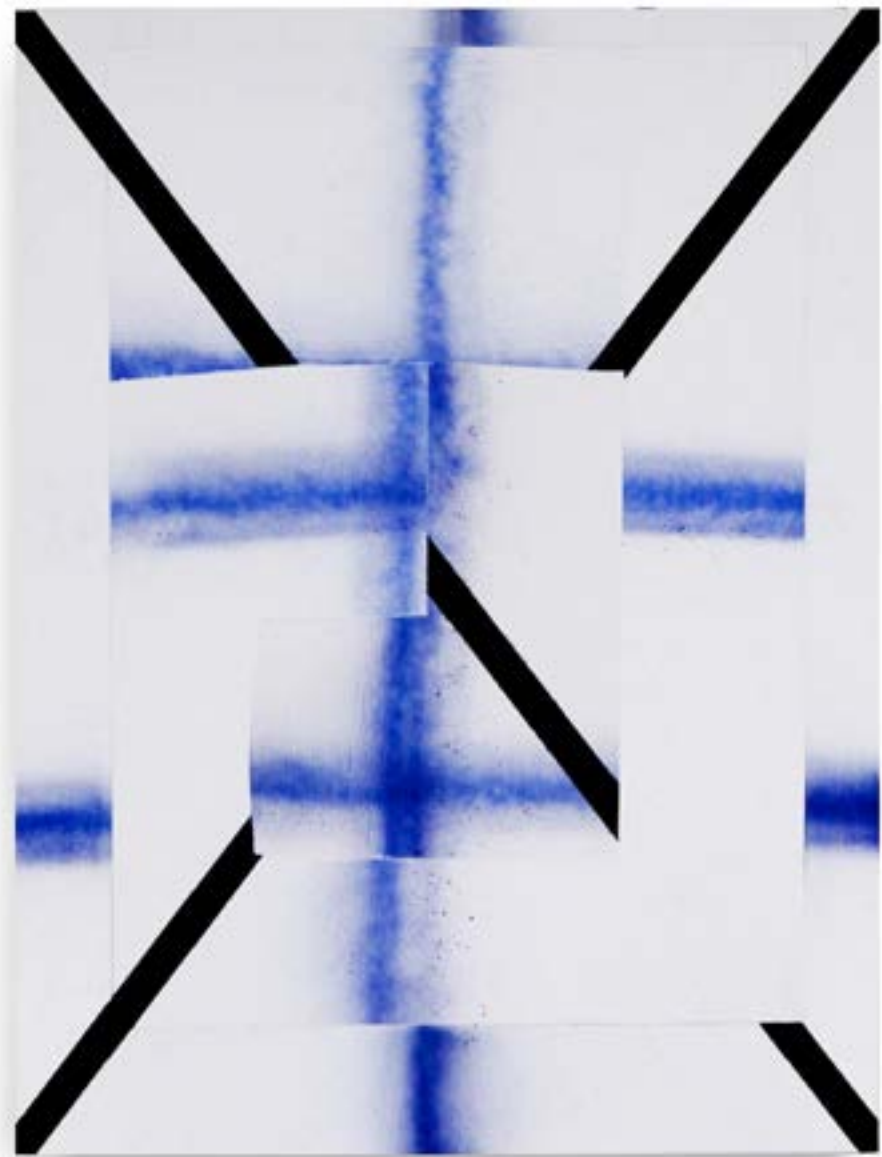


No Dog in this Fight, 2021, acrylic and spray paint on panel, 48 x 36 inches
\$7500

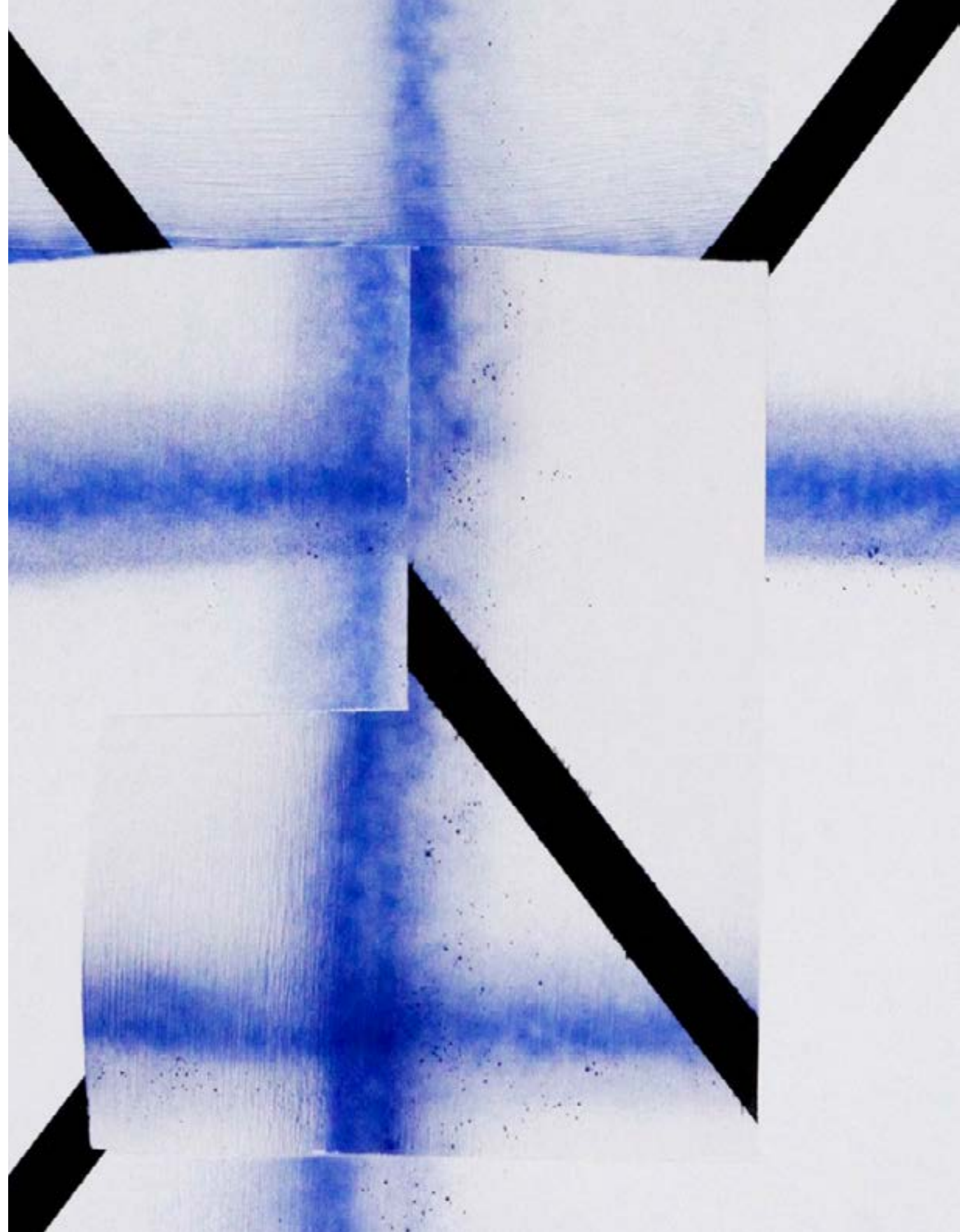


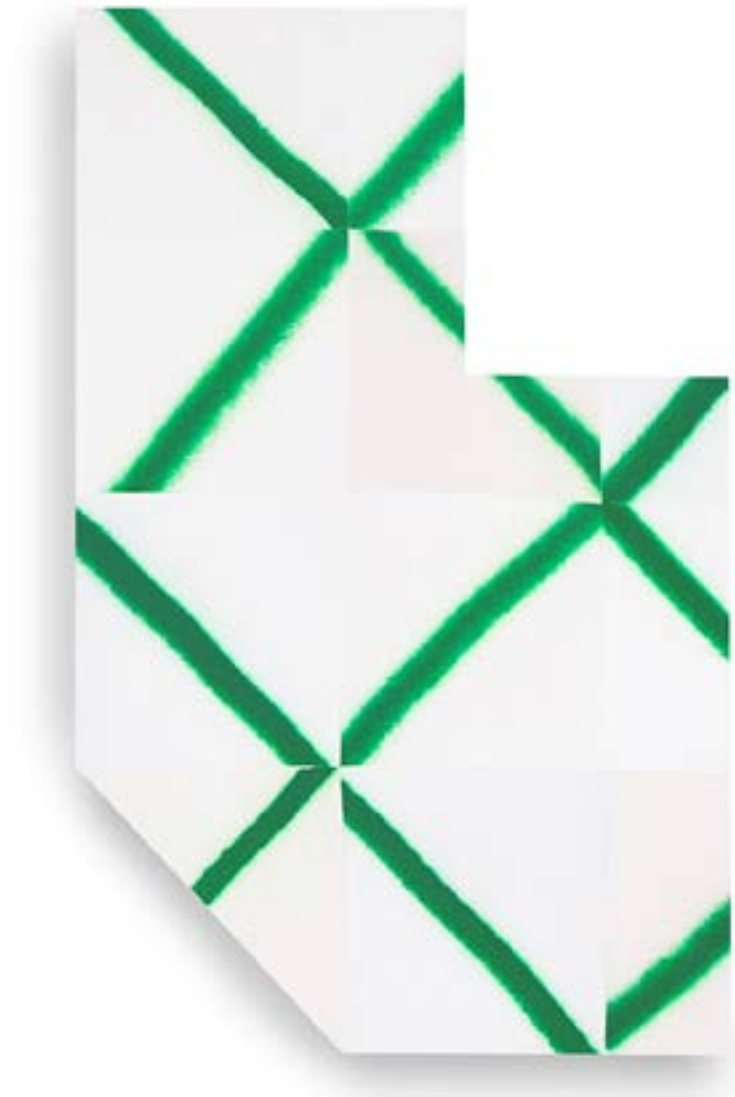
Sea Captain Straight, 2023, acrylic and spray paint on panel, 40 x 30 inches
\$6000





Sun Ray, 2022, acrylic, house paint and spray paint on panel, 30 x 24 inches
\$3400





Kick It, 2024, house paint and spray paint on panel, 24 x 15 inches
\$2600



Flypaper Flirt, 2021, acrylic and spray paint on panel, 30 x 24 inches
\$3400



Dulcet, 2024, acrylic, spray paint and molding paste on panel, 24 x 18 inches
\$3400



Wot_1, 2024, acrylic, spraypaint, molding paste and crayon on panel, 18 x 12 inches
\$2200

MICHELLE BRANDEMUEHL
www.michellebrandemuehl.com

Education:

1995 Bachelor of Fine Arts, Department of Art, University of Wisconsin at Madison

Solo Exhibitions:

2020 Off White Columns, New York City, NY
2018 ATA Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2015 ATA Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Two-Person Exhibition:

2015 Avenue, San Francisco, CA (with Michele King)

Selected Recent Group Exhibitions:

2024 Support, curated by Ilse Sørensen Murdock, Ilse Sørensen Murdock Studio, Greenpoint, NY
Rupture, Juried Regional Exhibition, String Room Gallery, Wells College, NY
Sword Thumbs, curated by Kaden Van De Loo, Real Tinsel Gallery, Milwaukee, WI
2021 Mohawk Hudson Regional, curated by Tommy Gregory, Albany International Airport Gallery, Albany, NY
The Vision of Care, curated by Robert Shane, Woodstock Artists Association & Museum, Woodstock, NY
2020 Art from the Boros, Denise Bibro Fine Art, New York City, NY
2019 Everyday Animals, curated by Alex Dodge, Ulterior Gallery, New York City, NY
Young Space Autumn 2019, curated by Kate Mothes and Angeliki Kim Jonsson
2018 JuxtaPositions, curated by Anthony Cuneo, Alannah Farrell and Robin Feld, The Painting Center, NY
Introductions 2018, curated by Enrico Gomez, Trestle Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Group Show, curated by Lucien Smith, Milk Gallery, New York City, NY
2017 Root Division Art Auction, San Francisco, CA
Introductions 2017, curated by Patricia Cariño Valdez, Kira Lyons and Hesse McGraw, Root Division, San Francisco, CA
2016 In Transit, Hubbell Street Gallery, San Francisco, CA
CCA Residency, AICAD Studios, Brooklyn, NY
MFA Never, curated by Rhiannon Evans MacFadyen, Donna Napper and Brion Nuda Rosch, Root Division Gallery, San Francisco, CA
RH Contemporary, The Three Arts Club, Chicago, IL
2015 Stephanie Breitbard Fine Arts, Trunk Show, San Francisco, CA
2014 Anonymously Altered Books, Adobe Books Backroom Gallery, San Francisco, CA

Fellowships and Residencies:

2022 Can Serrat Residency Grant, Barcelona, Spain
2019 PADA Studios Residency, Lisbon, Portugal
2017 Edward F. Albee Foundation, Montauk, NY
2016 CCA Residency, AICAD Studios, Brooklyn, NY

Bibliography:

2018 Art Maze Magazine Issue 10
2017 Introductions 2017 Show, Root Division Gallery, San Francisco, CA
2016 MFA Never Archive Project, Root Division Gallery, San Francisco, CA

