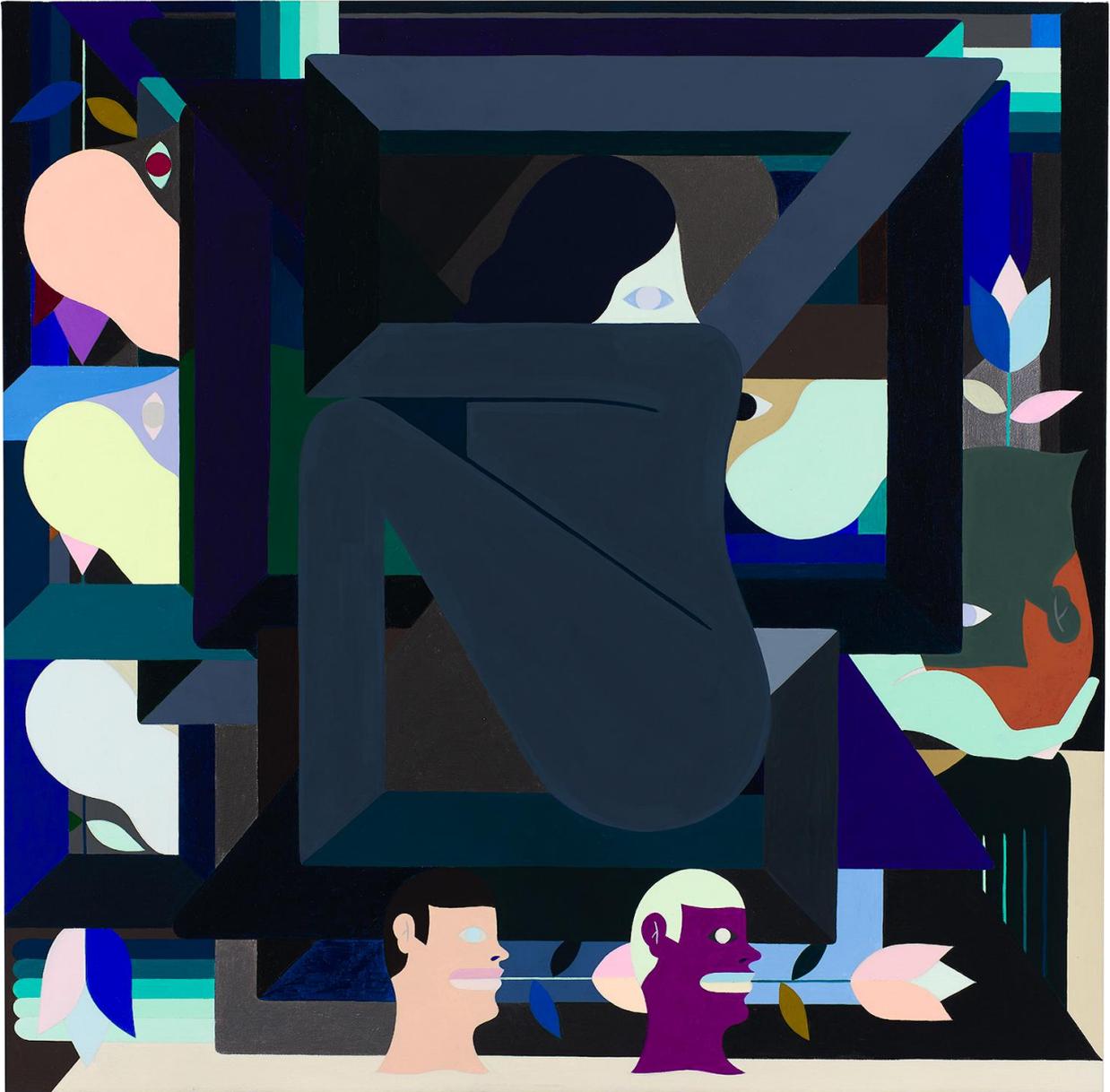


RICHARD COLMAN  
"THE LAST CALIFORNIA PAINTINGS"



CATALOGUE



BIM BAM

# RICHARD COLMAN

## "THE LAST CALIFORNIA PAINTINGS"



Bim Bam Gallery is pleased to present "The Last California Paintings", Richard Colman's first solo show in France. The title of the show refers to the San Francisco based artist starting a new chapter in his life, moving his studio from California to Connecticut. This inspired him to dig deeper into his current practice while mixing elements from his early California years. This transition in his life brings a ghostlike feeling to his new body of work, like scenes that exist on the periphery of memory.

*"The works aren't so much about leaving something behind as they are about the things that remain within us and have always been there. Buried in the ground there are salt deposits, within them there is water, and in that water there is life, bacteria, making up these minuscule ecosystems. They have been there for hundreds of thousands of years. Living unseen. That is fascinating to me, in the hard facts of it, but also as an idea: the thought of these things within us, that remain, seemingly forgotten under the surface, all the while being an important part of who we are."*

The motif of a geometrical human figure bending and unfolding across the composition has been recurrent in Richard Colman's art. With their flat colors, both vivid and pastel, their smooth curves recalling the sensuality of flesh, and the geometrical lines indicating the strength of the bone structure, these figures, neither male nor female, explore our emotional side. The introspective postures of these isolated characters gained a more universal meaning with the consequence of the pandemics on our daily lives, representing something everyone was experiencing all at once.

# RICHARD COLMAN

## “THE LAST CALIFORNIA PAINTINGS”

*"One of the foundational aspects of the geometric figure paintings is the attempt at perfection, a goal almost impossible to reach. That, I think, is relevant to most of us as people, as we often want to give our best while being aware of our shortcomings and our imperfections. It is a very human quality, a quality I like these paintings to represent. In many of my works, I let the minor mistakes come through. It takes a lot of drawing and redrawing to make these images. I like the evidence of that process to remain sometimes. When you look at them closely, the paintings include that history. Many times there are the ghosts of the drawings that came before, the edges waver a little and drips of paint and minor imperfections populate the canvas."*

This reflective time inspired Richard Colman to think about his earliest memories of art, including a lot of the rituals and iconography from his years in Catholic school as a boy, as well as narrations depicted on the stained glass windows of the church. His new paintings utilize many of these narrative and compositional devices, to stimulate the sense of wonder and curiosity these works sparked in him at a young age.

*"Later in my life I was drawn to religious art because of the subtleties of many of those works, the messages that were hidden within the narratives, discreetly present. The position of a hand, the direction of a glance, the color of a piece of clothing and so on. It's an aspect that I have always represented in my work, regardless of how abstract it may become. All of these subtle decisions have a personal meaning for me, More importantly though, they offer for the viewer, not specifically stated ideas, but clues which create possibilities for them to explore their own meaning within the works."*



Exhibition from May 7th to the 28th  
Tuesday through Saturday, 11am to 7pm

Opening reception on Saturday May 7th, 6pm to 9pm  
Bim Bam Gallery, 7 rue Saint Claude, 75003 Paris

# RICHARD COLMAN

## “THE LAST CALIFORNIA PAINTINGS”



*Born in Bethesda, Maryland in 1976. Lives and works in San Francisco, CA and Sandy Hook, CT.*

A sideways glance, hidden between someone's shoulder and their hair. The central figure is looking at you. Their arms, composed of geometric lines, seem to spread out although the character is curled up. Neither male nor female, their limbs stretch out to the extreme, transforming into the tentacles of a deeply human creature. Richard Colman freezes time. He prefers to stage the moment rather than capture it. The absence of movement in his paintings contributes to their narrative character, the story of which does not unroll over time but unfolds over the space of the canvas. The influence of religious painting is clear in the way this narrative unfolds.

Each element represented participates in a search for harmony. By stylizing the forms and eliminating the outlines, Richard Colman strives to represent what is essential in his subject. He tends to find balance in asymmetrical compositions where the lines of force respond to each other, as much as the colors, sometimes bright sometimes pastel. The artist, who has lived in California for a long time, talks to us about existential questions with poetry and lightness. His work has been exhibited in numerous galleries in New York, Los Angeles, Copenhagen, Berlin, Mexico City, London and now Paris.

# RICHARD COLMAN

## SELECTED SHOWS AND PROJECTS

Born in Bethesda, Maryland in 1976. Lives and works in San Francisco, CA and Sandy Hook, CT.

### SOLO AND TWO PERSONS SHOWS

- 2021
  - 33 Lilies, New Image Art, Los Angeles, CA
- 2020
  - Spider Dream, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 2018
  - Market Art Fair, Thomas Campbell & Richard Colman, V1 Gallery, Stockholm, SE
- 2017
  - Misanthrope, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 2016
  - Bold Notion (Online exhibition), Richard Colman, GASTMAN Gallery, New York
- 2015
  - Faces, Figures, Places & Things, Chandran Gallery, San Francisco
- 2014
  - Noise, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 2013
  - Gone Tomorrow, New Image Art Gallery, Hollywood, CA
  - Miles From Home, Guerrero Gallery, San Francisco, CA
- 2012
  - Destroyer (w/Andrew Schoultz), Cooper Cole Gallery, Toronto, CA

### GROUP SHOWS

- 2021
  - Lampadephoria, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 2020
  - MINE IV, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
- 2019
  - MINE III, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
  - Beyond the Streets, New York, US
- 2017
  - Under Winter Moon, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
  - Under Winter Moon, Richard Heller Gallery, Santa Monica, CA
  - Jon, John, Søren & Richard, V1 Gallery, DK
- 2016
  - Strange Powers, GASTMAN Gallery at ComplexCon 2016, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015
  - 13, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
  - WORK IN PROGRESS, GASTMAN Gallery, Los Angeles, CA
  - Jug Life, Park Life Gallery, San Francisco, CA
  - All Types of Characters: curated by worlds best ever, Joshua a Liner Gallery, New York, NY
  - New Normal II, curated by Andreas Guerrero, Oakland, CA

### EDUCATION

- 2002
  - School of The Museum Of Fine Arts, Boston, MA

### ART FAIRS

- 2018
  - Untitled, New Image Art, Miami, FL
  - Tables, Pots & Plants – A song for Matisse, V1 Gallery at VOLTA14, Basel, CH
  - Market Art Fair, Thomas Campbell & Richard Colman, V1 Gallery, Stockholm, SE
- 2017
  - CHART Art Fair, V1 Gallery, Copenhagen, DK
  - Art Herning, V1 Gallery, Herning, DK
- 2015
  - Art Herning, V1 Gallery, Herning, DK
  - Art Market San Francisco, Chandran Gallery
- 2014
  - Art Market Hamptons, Joshua Liner Gallery, Bridgehampton, NY, US
  - Zona Maco, New Image Art Gallery, Mexico City, MX
  - Pulse, New Image Art, Miami, FL
- 2013
  - Project Miami, Joshua Liner Gallery, Miami, US

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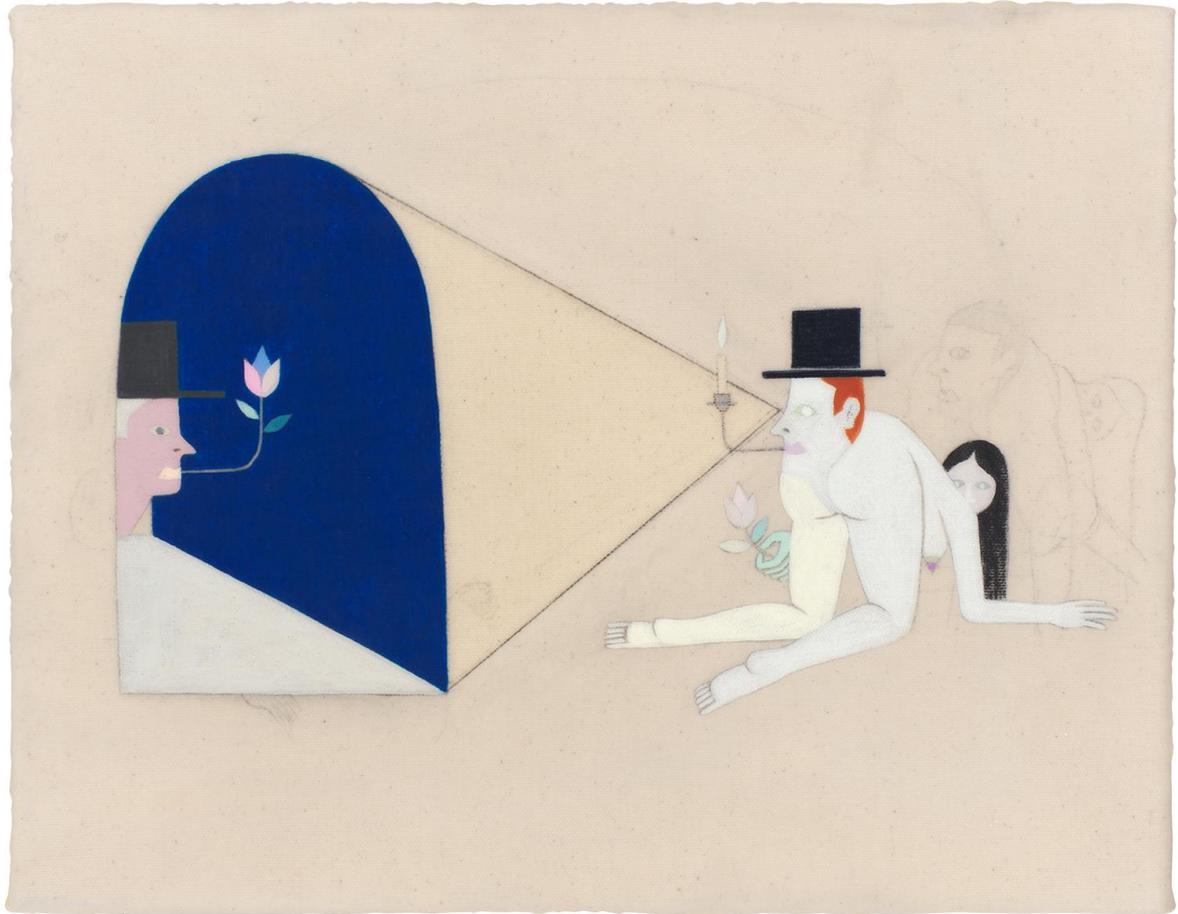
RICHARD COLMAN



*Ironweed* (2022)  
Acrylic on canvas

48 × 48 in  
120 x 120 cm

RICHARD COLMAN



*Those Lofty Aspirations* (2022)  
Acrylic on canvas

11 × 14 in  
28 x 36 cm

RICHARD COLMAN



*Held Close* (2022)  
Acrylic on canvas

12 × 9 in  
30 x 23 cm

**BIM BAM GALLERY**

**Baimba Kamara**

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