



## Sam Friedman's First Solo Show in Athens dreams in colors borrowed from an island.

Dio Horia is pleased to announce the first solo exhibition by Sam Friedman in Athens, after the artist's residency and solo show in Mykonos in 2019. The exhibition opens on October 7 and ends on November 15, 2020.

The exhibition '**Island**' is composed entirely of new paintings that focus on the themes of landscape painting and natural phenomena. Strictly installed by color throughout the project space, these paintings elicit a reaction similar to our reaction to music. Themes and motifs, colours and feelings appear again and again, slightly different yet charged with the same energy, bound together in a never-ending circle of repetition, mutation, change and repetition again.

With this new body of work **Friedman** further explores and deepens an artistic practice that has been characterizing his pictorial output for years: He is not literally painting landscapes but adopts the flow and movement he sees in nature in order to address questions about the medium itself. As such, all of his works are to be viewed primarily as exercises in color, composition, line quality, opacity, sheen, and the physical interaction between paint, brush, canvas and the artist himself.

**Friedman's** works are central points in a descending spiral of deepening meanings: reflecting images, multilayered interpretations, an ever-changing disposition ranging from mere force, in-depth analysis and scrutiny to the gentle revisiting of past themes, thoughts and experiences.

The works in the exhibition '**Island**' were composed during the COVID-19 pandemic where the artist worked in solitude, only in close proximity to his art, family and nature. These works seem of city noise, fluid and peaceful, as if created based on the memories of a trip in a far-away island that never happened. When looking at the works as a whole, one cannot avoid thinking of the ways we are all a little more isolated at this time, and also a bit more familiar to a romanticized island way of life.

— END —

### NOTES TO EDITORS

— **Sam Friedman** (b. 1984, Oneonta, New York) moves between representational and abstract depictions with seeming ease and spontaneity. His paintings explore the formal concerns of paint, tools and surfaces as they relate to the scale of the human body, and his narratives resist progressive plots; without a beginning or end, the works become infinite. For



each piece he manifests, there are countless interpretations that do not become physical, yet remain in the artist's mind with a boundlessness that resonates with the viewer.

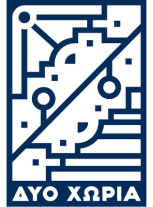
Friedman's work is rooted in the tradition of American Abstract Expressionist painters who explored line, color, and the systematic application of paint. Within this heritage, Friedman examines methodical processes where repetition and self imposed parameters lay the groundwork for his compositions but permit him the freedom to build each piece instinctively by hand. Rather than masking each successive gradient to create a manufactured finish, the artist premixes his colors and lays down line after line freehand, allowing imperfections to emerge.

For the artist, this meditative and organic process is transfigurative and carries through to the viewer's experience of the works. Growing up in upstate New York - where he has since returned after years in the city - Friedman seeks the state of mind that he encounters within nature. Though the works have elemental and naturalistic qualities, they are built not by reference to the physical aspects of the outdoors, but by the flow and movement within nature to address questions about the practice of painting itself. Early in his career, the artist marks a pivotal time while walking towards the sunset at Rockaway Beach during a storm. This moment enlightened a visual sensory of colors and lines which he's most known for today.

Friedman studied illustration and typography at the Pratt Art Institute and has presented solo exhibitions in the United States, Europe and Asia. His work has been featured in Architectural Digest, Artsy, Hypebeast, High Snobiety, Juxtapoz and other publications. He currently lives and works in Pleasant Valley, New York.

— **Dio Horia Art Platform** (2015) is a gallery for contemporary art and culture that was inaugurated in 2015. Dio Horia Gallery strives to be at the forefront of cultural experimentation both in Greece and the world beyond, by representing young emerging artists from small peripheral countries. At the same time, Dio Horia is running an international residency program and also organizes group shows and publications with established and emerging artists that have not exhibited in Greece. Finally, Dio Horia engages in collaborative projects developed as a result of associations with artists, curators, non-profit organizations and cultural carriers. These fall into categories ranging from social, cultural and literary studies to music and performing arts. The gallery is based in Mykonos, Greece, and has two exhibition spaces in Athens, Greece.

— **Dio Horia Project Space** (2020) is a new exhibition space that will operate in parallel to Dio Horia's regular exhibition program in Athens and in Mykonos. The Project Space serves as an experimental exhibition space as well as the galleries main warehouse and offices. **Dio Horia Gallery in Athens** is still closed following the COVID-19 Pandemic and aims to re-open in early 2021. **Dio Horia Gallery in Mykonos** is now closed and will re-open in April 2021.



**Opening | October 7, 2020**

**12:00 – 21:00**

**For private viewings and FaceTime walkthroughs please email**

**[sales@diohoria.com](mailto:sales@diohoria.com)**

**— Exhibition info**

Sam Friedman: Island  
Solo show  
Dio Horia Project Space  
October 7- November 15, 2020

**Dio Horia Project Space Athens**  
Mantzouraki 16, 11524, Athens, Greece  
Hours:  
Monday - Friday, 10:00 - 19:00  
Saturday, 11:00 - 15:00  
Tel: +30 2106714827

**— Upcoming**

Notions of Female Leadership:  
Sunna Handsottir, Caroline Larsen,  
Iliodora Margellos, Selma Parlour

**Art Athina Virtual Tour 2020**  
Dio Horia Project Space and  
[www.aavirtual.gr](http://www.aavirtual.gr) | Dio Horia  
October 8 – October 15, 2020  
Monday - Friday, 10:00 - 19:00  
Saturday, 11:00 - 15:00

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