

Israel Aten

October 15 - December 4, 2021



Israel Aten, *Untitled*, 2021, acrylic and charcoal on canvas, 55 x 48 in. (139.7 x 121.9 cm)

What Pipeline is happy to announce Israel Aten, on view October 15 through December 4, 2021. An opening reception will be held on Friday, October 15th from 6 - 9 PM.

Aten is known for figurative and abstract paintings of juggernauts, masculine figures and calligraphic pictograms in acrylic, graphite, and spray paint. Beginning with a ritualistic drawing practice, his figures emerge out of an urgency, as if channeled through a rhythmic impulse similar to dance. Direct and brute lines intersect and dissipate into color fields. Technoid-humanoids outfitted with spikes, logos, crests, symbols and jewelry coalesce until, through layered applications and erasures of paint, they recede into the fog of time. The paintings both represent and perform a metamorphosis that harkens back to the alchemical origins of the medium, staging an encounter between the profane and the secular. Here the performance is further emphasized by a stage or platform that could also be read as a bed or tomb. We see in a robotic mutant the remnants of an archaic religious icon; the figures of our popular imagination searching for their archetypal ancestors. They propose that within the chemically-induced experience of club-goers exists trace elements of an ancient ecstatic trance.

Israel Aten (b. 1986 Detroit, USA, lives and works in Detroit) studied at Düsseldorf Art Academy. Recent solo exhibitions include *All Under Heaven* at Natalia Hug, Cologne; and *RADAR: Blast Valiant* at LWL-Museum für Kunst und Kultur and Westfälischer Kunstverein, Münster. Recent group exhibitions include *Birds of a Feather*, Z33 House for Contemporary Art, Design & Architecture, Hasselt Belgium; *Jetzt! Junge Malerei in Deutschland* (travelling exhibition); *Peter Mertes Stipendium*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn; and *Black Dahlia Quest*, Garros Roland, Essen.