

ALEX DODGE

Personal Day | April 1 - May 20, 2023

## ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

BB&M is pleased to present its first solo exhibition of Alex Dodge, whose vibrant, tactile paintings depict uncanny figures and scenes that hover between the digital and the analog, the real and the imaginary. Conceived with advanced digital tools but realized through a manual process indebted to traditional techniques acquired during his extended residence in Japan, Dodge's work poses questions about the formation of the self and the shifting experience of material culture in our technology-permeated, late-capitalist age.

By turns ambiguous and enigmatic, though vaguely familiar, the forms that populate Dodge's work straddle overlapping yet indeterminate zones: the anthropomorphic and the artificial, the corporeal and the spectral, the sentient and the inanimate. Key to this effect is Dodge's deployment of textured patterns in vivid synthetic colors, repeated with variations and distortions, which the artist observes, "could be a stand-in or metaphor for digital systems at large . . . an agnostic, logical system that is overlaid on top of experience."

The shape of that experience is the subject of Dodge's work – how we perceive, inhabit, and respond to a world permeated by technologies that increasingly displace collective tropes and narratives with atomized bits and bytes algorithmically served up for an audience of few or even just one. Belonging to the generation of Americans who came of age in a pre-Internet era when the ascendance of mass media coupled with suburban expansion produced a popular culture wedded to the homogenizing dictates of consumerism, the artist is particularly attuned to this displacement – and not without a strangely affecting hint of nostalgia.

Deadpan humor often jostles up against low-grade, existential melancholy. In *Intervention* (2023), two recurring characters – one vaguely reminiscent of "Snuggles," the teddy bear from the eponymous fabric-softener ad and the other, of Elmo from the children's TV show *Sesame Street* – are shown with cups of coffee at hand (from Dunkin Donuts and Starbucks respectively) in a moment of reckoning with some unspecified psychic crisis. This might be a scene from *The Muppets* if it were staged by Beckett.

Other works in the show – comfortingly familiar, anodyne texts ("ALL YOU CAN EAT," "SNOW DAY") rendered as over-stuffed cushions, and gaming gloves embossed with knuckle tattoos – all negotiate this finely calibrated line between critique, memorialization, and recuperation of a particular world once experienced authentically but increasingly accessible only as synthetic representations in the virtual realm.

ABOUT THE ARTIST



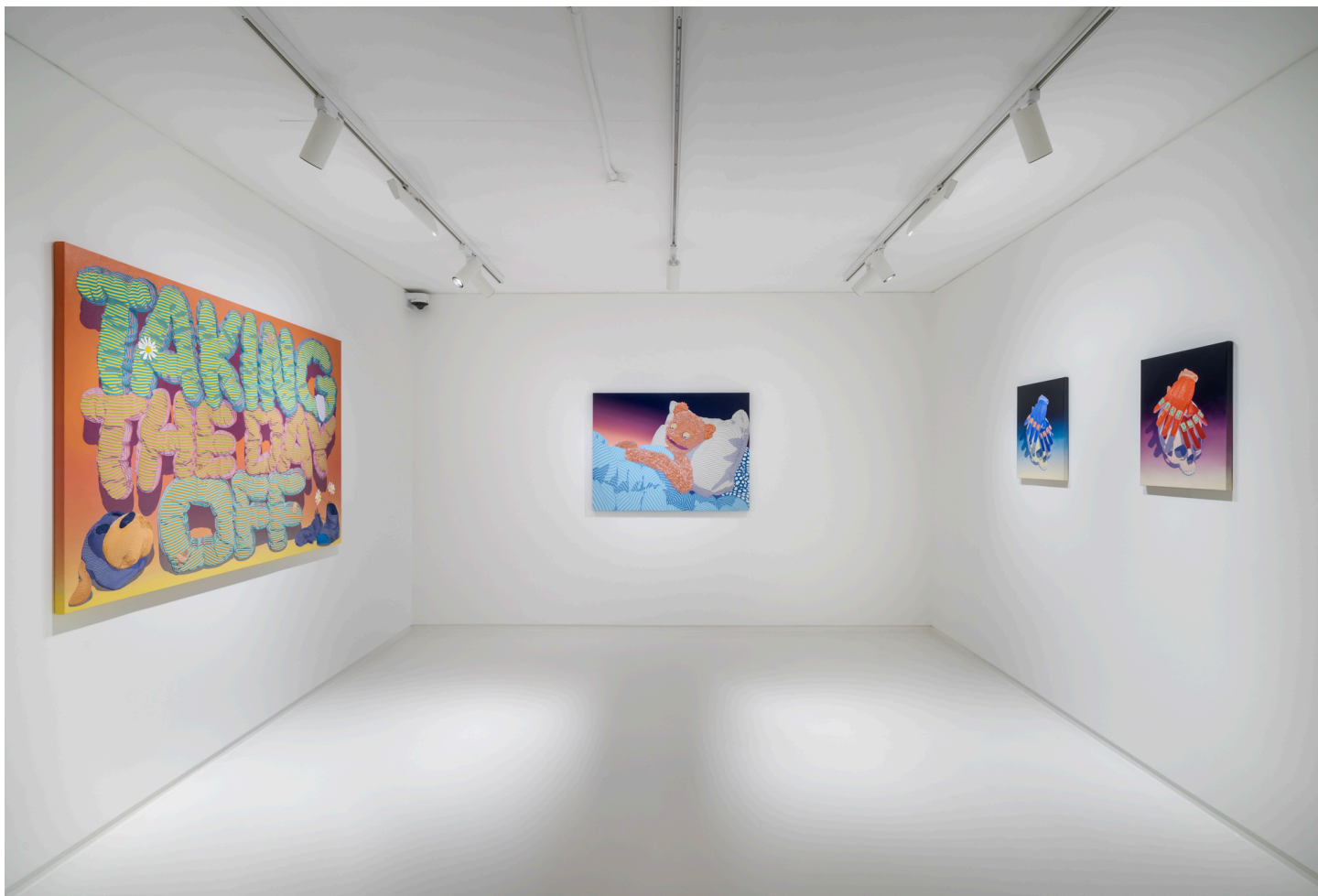
Born in 1977, **Alex Dodge** received a BFA from Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA in Interactive Telecommunications from New York University. Solo and two-person exhibitions include Klaus von Nichtssagend (New York), Bucksbaum Center for the Arts (Grinnell, IA), and the Pizzuti Collection (Columbus, OH). He has exhibited in group shows at the Whitney Museum (New York), International Print Center New York, and Columbus Museum of Art (OH), among others. His work is in the collection of MoMA (New York), Metropolitan Museum (New York), Whitney Museum (New York), and the Museum of Fine Arts (Boston).

EXHIBITION VIEW



Exhibition View, *Personal Day*, BB&M, Seoul, 2023. Works by Alex Dodge

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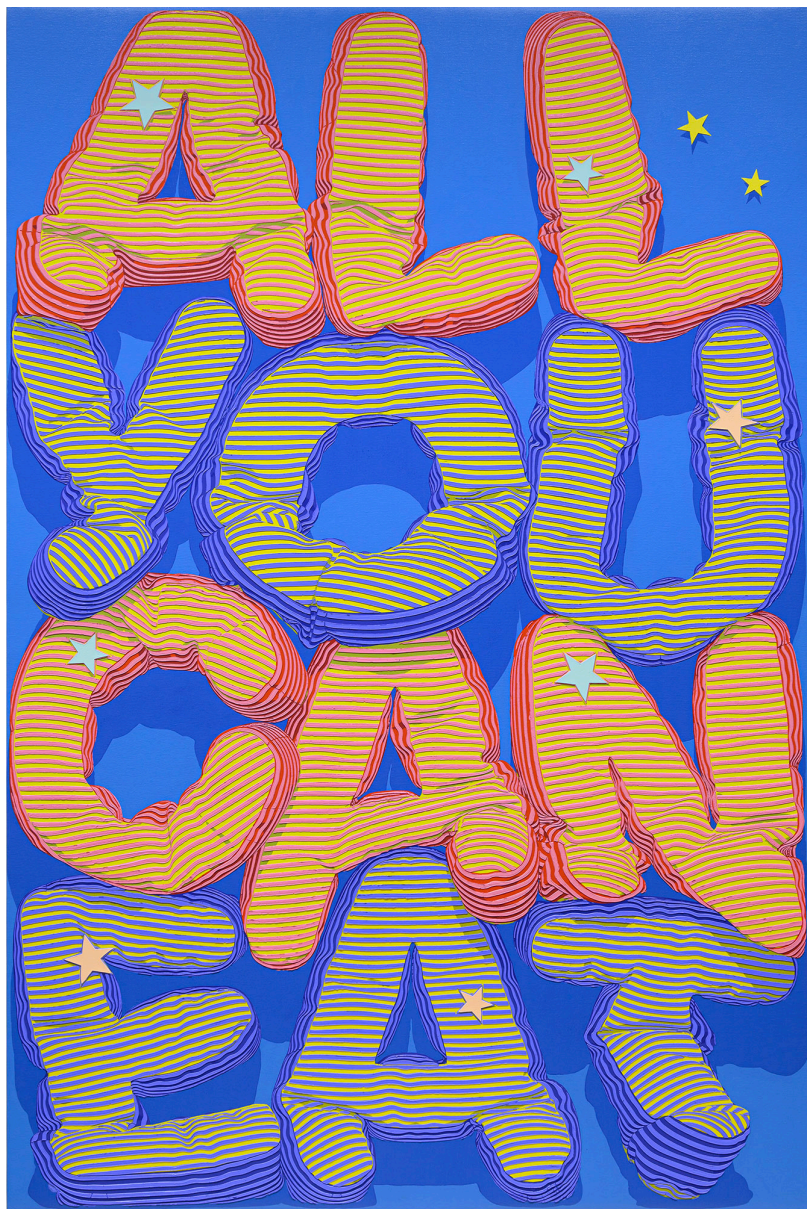
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SELECTED WORKS



Intervention, 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 137.2 x 182.9 cm

SELECTED WORKS



All You Can Eat, 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 152.4 x 101.6 cm



SELECTED WORKS



Nigel, Awakening From the Meaning Meaning Crisis (After JV - New Dawn), 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 91.4 x 121.9 cm

SELECTED WORKS



New Oracle, 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 111.8 x 152.4 cm

SELECTED WORKS



Fashionable Gloves for Any Occasion (Deep Mind), 2023  
Oil and acrylic on canvas, 53 x 45.5 cm



## ABOUT THE GALLERY

Beginning in 2009 as an art consultancy, BB&M has been instrumental in the ascendance of some of the most acclaimed contemporary Korean artists now on the international stage, including Lee Bul, Minouk Lim, Park Chan-kyong, and Bae Young-whan. BB&M's current iteration as an independent gallery is a joint effort between James B. Lee (Founding Principal) and Si Young Hur (Principal), who brings decades of experience in the commercial sector as Director at Gallery Hyundai and PKM Gallery and as Partner at Gallery Baton. In her previous posts, Ms. Hur was responsible for organizing and overseeing exhibitions of such artists as Liam Gillick, Olafur Eliasson, Thomas Struth, Robert Rauschenberg, and Yun Hyong-keun, a key figure in *Dansaekhwa*.

BB&M inaugurated its gallery space in October 2021 with a solo exhibition of Lee Bul, widely recognized as the leading Korean artist of her generation. Encompassing over 2,500 square feet (233 square meters) of exhibition space over two levels, including a double-height space with a 17.5-foot (5.4 meters) ceiling, BB&M is located in the culturally storied district of Seongbuk-dong, in the vicinity of Gansong Art Museum, established in 1938 as the first private art museum in Korea.

In addition to Lee Bul, the gallery's roster includes such prominent, critically important Korean figures as Minouk Lim, Bae Young-whan, and Heecheon Kim, working across a range of genres and shaping contemporary Korean art in an international context. The gallery also represents younger international artists rising in recognition and spanning different visual cultures, among them Alex Dodge and Miko Veldkamp.

From the outset BB&M has also sought to introduce curatorial perspectives from outside the commercial sector to ensure its program is intellectually expansive, inviting, for instance, Dan Cameron, the former New Museum curator, to organize an exhibition. These efforts reflect the gallery's long-term mission of building an exhibition program that engages both critically and aesthetically with contemporary visual ideas.

## ABOUT THE PRINCIPALS

James B. Lee, Founding Principal, brings decades of varied experience in the art world, as a writer for such international magazines as *ARTnews* (New York), *Flash Art International* (Milan), and *Art AsiaPacific* (Hong Kong); in institutions, as the Head of Exhibitions at Art Sonje Center, Seoul, and the Director of Exhibitions at the Gwangju Biennale Foundation; and in the commercial sector as Partner at PKM Gallery, Seoul. Mr. Lee was trained in finance at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, before earning a master's in writing from Columbia University, New York.

Si Young Hur, Principal, earned a BFA in painting from the Rhode Island School of Design and an MFA from Hong Ik University, Seoul, where she studied with major figures in the *Dansaekhwa* movement, notably Park Seo-bo. Ms. Hur went on to study art management at ICART, Paris, and embarked on a career in the commercial art world, first working at a Paris gallery that exhibited Lee Ufan. Upon returning to Seoul, she served as Director at Gallery Hyundai and subsequently at PKM Gallery.

### **For further press inquiry, please contact:**

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