

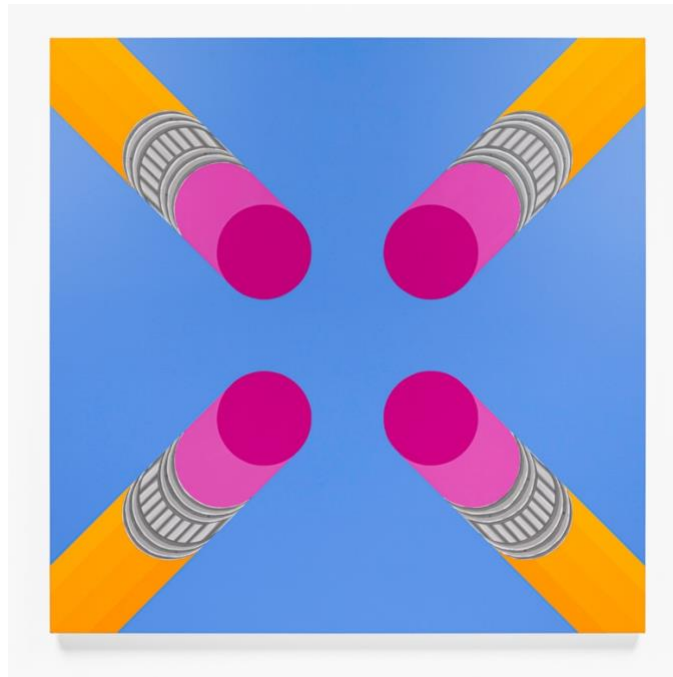
# ABATTOIR

SHAWN POWELL

*Triangle, Circle, Square*

October 19<sup>th</sup> – December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Opening October 19<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8 pm



Shawn Powell, *Four Pink Circles on a Blue-Violet Background*, 2024

Abattoir is pleased to present *Triangle, Circle, Square*, Shawn Powell's second solo exhibition with the gallery. This show continues Powell's exploration of previous themes that question the artifice of painting—abstraction, representation, the subject as decoy. Always keen on everyday objects, Powell renders his subject matter with a signature delightfully deadpan manner, enlarging detailed views of pencils and cigarettes into weighty presences on canvas. He invites close analysis and the pleasure of simple looking simultaneously, layering art historical references onto uninflected close-ups that shift legible forms into the abstract.

The elementary shapes of triangle, circle, and square, organize the show. Powell's intention is to break away from seeing the flat canvas as a rectangular window, and all the pictorial

associations of that art historical device. Shaped canvases thus assert that Painting is their subject, while detaching the narrative from the subjects depicted. The titles underscore the abstract nature of the works—a trampoline becomes “Black Monochrome”, pencil erasers become “Four Pink Circles on a Blue-Violet Background”, and a scarf held to a rope by a clothes pin becomes “White, Black, and Green Rectangles on a Blue Background”. A pipe is not a pipe in Powell’s work.

Playfully quoting a wide range of contemporary painters, the works are often humorous and a bit absurd. This painted world, inhabited by a cast of ordinary things, draws the viewer into the experience of conceptual or reductive abstraction, distilled consideration of pure color, shape, line, composition, and pattern. Powell’s work is a tightrope walk between genres, performing a bait-and-switch where quotidian objects shed their narrative connotations and dissolve into disembodied form.

Shawn Powell has presented solo exhibitions at 106 Green, Brooklyn, NY; Chapter NY, New York, NY; Abattoir Gallery, Cleveland, OH; Marrow Gallery, San Francisco, CA; and at The Journal Gallery, New York, NY. His work has been included in group exhibitions and presentations at venues such as the Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI; The Fabric Workshop and Museum, Philadelphia, PA; NADA Miami, and NADA New York. He has received two Ohio Arts Council Individual Excellence Award grants participated in several European residencies. His work is included in the collections of Akron Art Museum, Fidelity Art Collection, and the Cleveland Clinic. Powell received his BFA in Painting and Art History from the Kansas City Art Institute, an MFA in Painting from Hunter College. He is based in Kent, Ohio, and is an Associate Professor and co-head of Painting at Kent State University.