

ALTMAN SIEGEL

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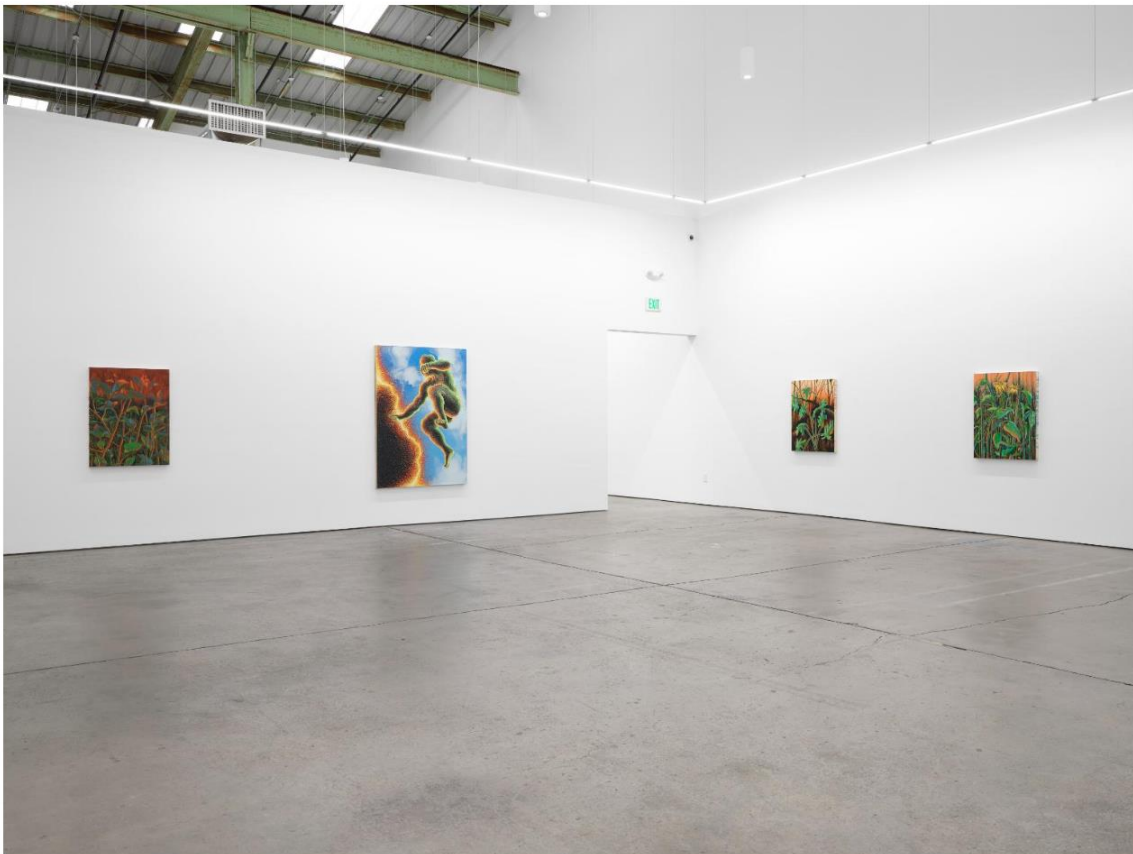
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“Didier William’s new exhibition at Altman Siegel: Vibrant paintings exploring identity and resilience,” *Visual Atelier 8*, February 7, 2025

Didier William’s new exhibition at Altman Siegel: Vibrant paintings exploring identity and resilience

Visual Atelier 8 / February 7, 2025



Courtesy of the artist and Altman Siegel, San Francisco

Didier William’s latest exhibition “Beyond the Bodies’ Edge” at Altman Siegel

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Didier William's latest exhibition at Altman Siegel presents a striking new body of work that builds upon the themes explored in his large-scale installation at Prospect New Orleans. Through a dynamic fusion of vibrant color and exuberant figuration, he investigates the complexities of cultural identity, particularly in the context of immigrant experiences. His work delves into the precariousness of belonging, addressing the uncertainties that often define cultural existence in foreign landscapes. By intertwining ancestral narratives with personal history, he constructs visually compelling compositions that reflect the turbulence of both personal and collective identities.

Didier William's paintings, layered with intricate textures and luminous forms, suggest an environment in constant flux. These compositions, charged with energetic force, evoke landscapes torn between destruction and renewal. Fiery horizons and sharp, electric currents disrupt the stability of the picture plane, reinforcing the notion that painting itself is not a static medium but one that reveals itself gradually through prolonged engagement. In William's vision, time is embedded in the act of looking, where meaning unfolds over multiple encounters rather than in a singular moment.



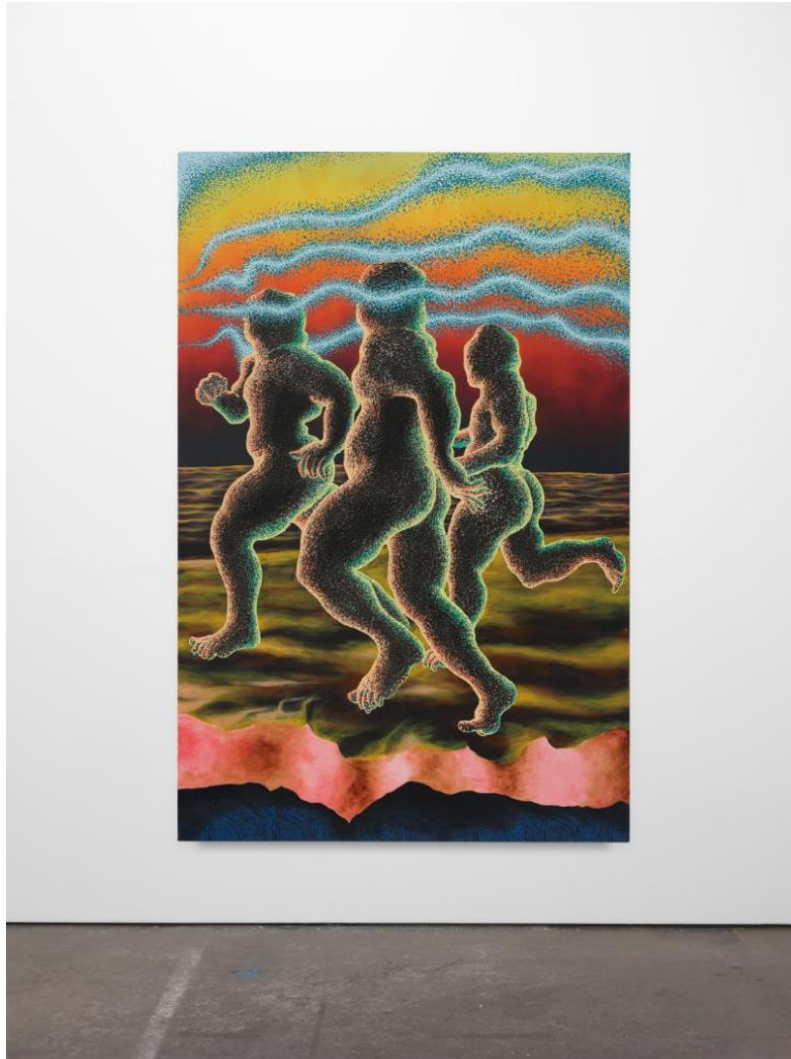
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The figures in his works, often described as titans, exude both power and vulnerability. They are adorned in armor resembling chainmail, yet upon closer inspection, this protective layer is composed of hundreds or even thousands of eyes. This motif suggests an acute awareness of the surrounding world, as well as the delicate balance between exposure and self-preservation. Vision, while fragile, serves as a defense, embodying a tension between the porousness of perception and the resilience required to endure external forces. William's figures, caught in this duality, navigate a terrain that is both mythical and deeply rooted in contemporary anxieties.

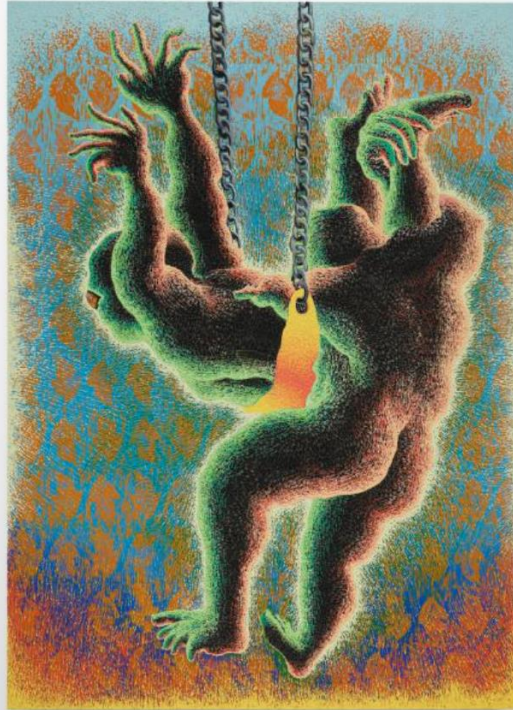
A striking departure within Didier William's exhibition is a text-based work that reads "steel yourself," etched onto a wooden surface. Created in the wake of the 2024 presidential election, this phrase functions as both a caution and a declaration of fortitude. It encapsulates the very essence of his practice—the need to brace for an uncertain future while acknowledging the burdens of history. This work seamlessly aligns with his broader artistic concerns, as he continues to interweave colonial histories, environmental crises, and deeply personal narratives into a singular, multifaceted visual language.

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Didier William's mastery of diverse techniques, including painting, printmaking, wood carving, and sculpture, underscores his ability to craft compelling narratives that transcend singular interpretations. Originally from Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and currently based in Philadelphia, his work remains deeply engaged with themes of displacement, resilience, and transformation, positioning him as a formidable voice in contemporary art.

Exhibition details:

"Beyond the Bodies' Edge" by Didier William
January 09 – February 22, 2025
1150 25th Street, San Francisco, CA 94107