

## **Will Bentsen**

*Jackpot!*

September 10 - October 8, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday, September 10, 5-7pm

Lowell Ryan Projects is pleased to present our second solo exhibition with Houston-based artist Will Bentsen. Bentsen's cathartic process, often carried out in a single painting secession, produces exuberant, vibrant works that yield a visceral response. Washes of acrylic paint in saturated hues ground a fury of rapid brushwork. In this exhibition, titled *Jackpot!*, twelve bold acrylic abstractions, all produced over the course of the last year, are on view.

Downstairs a series of paintings utilize red as a unifying force, while the works upstairs present a palette of green, purple, and orange. The two largest paintings, each 72h x 96w inches in scale, envelop the viewer in motion. *Nightshade* sets a flurry of pale pink and purple brushstrokes against a backdrop of orange-red and magenta washes. Across the room, the entire canvas of *In the Grip* is engulfed in a whirlwind of fire engine red and cadmium yellow marks. While the works are not process-based, the viewer experiences the artist's method when contemplation gives way to intuition in an exhilarating effect.

Timely in their approach physically and mentally, Bentsen creates paintings that live beyond a conceptual arena. Palpable in the works is the desire to quell the voices in one's head, to think instinctively in the moment, and experience primal shifts in color and movement in a satisfying exorcism of emotion. Redolent in their veneration for the medium and their predecessors—Ed Moses, Cecily Brown, Stanley Whitney, and Joan Mitchell being a few of the artist's favorites—Bentsen's paintings do not question their place or purpose. A confidence is exuded that lives outside the need for adoration; the works are a product of the need to both produce joy and to create.

Will Bentsen (b. 1965, Houston, TX) lives and works in Houston, TX. His painting process involves ritualistic sessions where his fetish for materials, tools, and the act of painting are embraced and celebrated in visceral bursts. Working on multiple paintings at once, Bentsen splashes, stains, brushes, and drags paint across the canvas' surfaces—hitting each note of color with speed, softness, and restraint that manifest in energetic riffs and chords. Bentsen is represented by Lowell Ryan Projects in Los Angeles, and Josh Pazda Hiram Butler in Houston, TX.

For more information please contact: [info@lowellryanprojects.com](mailto:info@lowellryanprojects.com)

**Will Bentsen**

*Jackpot!*

September 10 - October 8, 2022

**Checklist**

**Downstairs:**



Will Bentsen  
*A General Violation of Expectation*  
2021  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-035



Will Bentsen  
*Color Study (Desert Bloom)*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
25h x 20w in  
63.50h x 50.80w cm  
WB-040



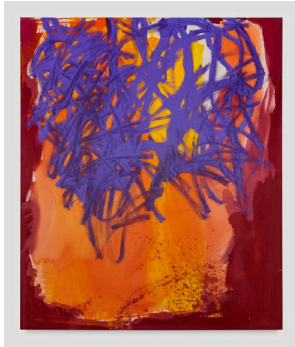
Will Bentsen  
*Color Study (Prize for the Taking)*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
25h x 20w in  
63.50h x 50.80w cm  
WB-039



Will Bentsen  
*Nightshade*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 96w in  
182.88h x 243.84w cm  
WB-038



Will Bentsen  
*Lavender Under Pink With Gray Over Black (I Know, Right?)*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
20h x 25w in  
50.80h x 63.50w cm  
WB-041



Will Bentsen  
*Prize for the Taking*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-036



Will Bentsen  
*In the Grip*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 96w in  
182.88h x 243.84w cm  
WB-037



Will Bentsen  
*Jackpot*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-034

**Upstairs:**



Will Bentsen  
*The Blind Courage of Youth* 2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-033



Will Bentsen  
*Soft Landing*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-032



Will Bentsen  
*Hero Worship: My Epistemic Curiosity*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-031



Will Bentsen  
*El Dorado*  
2022  
Acrylic on canvas  
72h x 60w in  
182.88h x 152.40w cm  
WB-030