

**Katy Martin**  
**Fergus McCaffrey New York, 2nd Floor**

**March 15 – April 2, 2022**  
**Performance: March 30, 6–8pm**



“All my work centers around painting as performance, as an act that brings with it the artist’s whole body.” —Katy Martin<sup>1</sup>

Fergus McCaffrey is pleased to present new work by Katy Martin on the second floor of our New York gallery, opening Tuesday, March 15—in conjunction with *Matthew Barney, Carolee Schneemann, Kazuo Shiraga, Min Tanaka* on the ground floor of our Chelsea location.

Katy Martin’s commitment to the embrace and employ of her body is an act of defiance akin to Carolee Schneemann’s feminist critiques of action painting; Schneemann was an artist Martin knew personally and certainly saw perform, tense events about which the artist has remarked, “Few people talk about the sound of Carolee’s performance, the friction that slapping of movement could have on the people in the room.” This figure onto ground act mirrors (inspires) Martin’s own action—smearing her freshly painted body onto paper or canvas, sometimes publicly, often privately—then photographing and printing the residual impressions.

To integrate painting, photography and performance is evident in the gallery’s downstairs exhibition of *Matthew Barney, Carolee Schneemann, Kazuo Shiraga, Min Tanaka*; Martin’s mission is more overtly addressing the ramification of painting’s act—specifically abstract *expressions* conducted through the dimension of time. The pushing and pulling of painted forms manifests a sense of ephemerality in a gestural abstraction rooted in both east and west postwar conventions. Here, every moment of movement leaves a mark on the surface where Martin has orchestrated a phantasmagory of strokes hovering in visual and physical space.

**About Fergus McCaffrey**

Founded in 2006, Fergus McCaffrey is internationally recognized for its groundbreaking role in promoting the work of postwar Japanese artists such as Sadamasa Motonaga, Kazuo Shiraga and Jiro Takamatsu. The gallery also exhibits the work of emerging and seminal Western artists including Anna Conway, Marcia Hafif, Birgit Jürgenssen, Richard Nonas, Sigmar Polke and Carol Rama. In keeping with the gallery’s commitment to Japanese art and culture, McCaffrey opened its Tokyo outpost in March 2018. Fergus McCaffrey has locations in New York, St. Barth, and Tokyo.

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Image: Katy Martin, *Local Color (#5160)*, 2014. Archival pigment print on cotton rag paper, 22 x 15 1/4 inches (55.9 x 38.7 cm) © Katy Martin

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<sup>1</sup> Katy Martin, “Artist Statement,” Katy Martin, accessed March 9, 2022, <https://www.katymartin.net/statement-21>.