

Frieze London

Michael Simpson

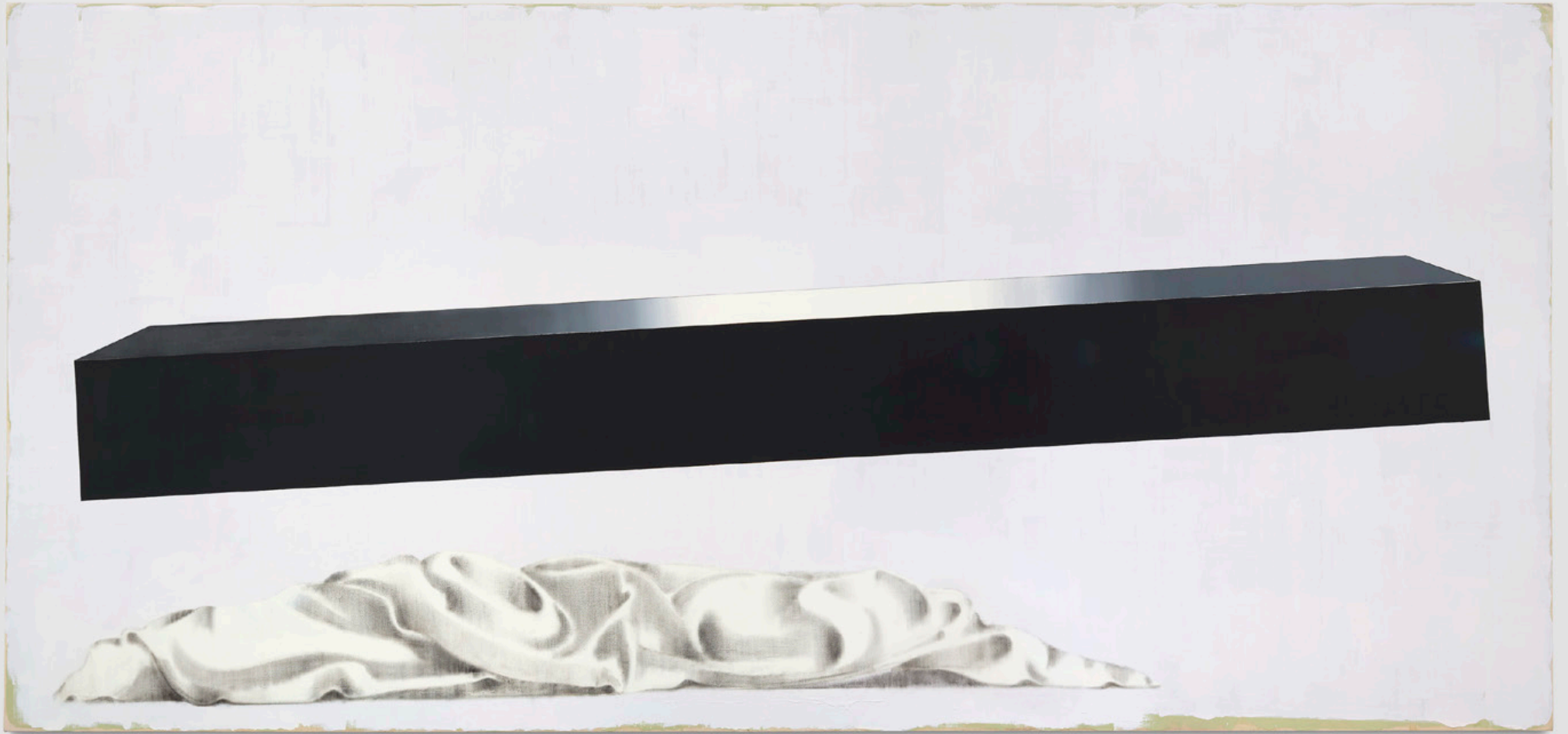
9 – 13 October 2024

Booth A7

Modern Art
4-8 Helmet Row, London EC1V 3QJ
7 Bury Street, London SW1Y 6AL
3 Place de l'Alma, Paris 75008
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www.modernart.net

For Frieze London 2024, Modern Art presents a solo exhibition by British artist Michael Simpson. Painting almost daily for over six decades, Simpson is renowned for probing both the formal mechanics of painting and in his own words, “the infamy of religious history”. He is best known for large paintings that repeat a small number of rigorously worked images, inspired by fifteenth century Venetian and early Flemish painting. In Simpson’s work, ladders, benches, and confessional boxes are reduced to geometric forms. Some of these objects levitate, others are rooted to the ground, and all depicted in a shallow space on a flat painted surface. His use of architectural objects, such as pulpits and Islamic minbars, confronts existential and political themes – uninhabited objects rendered potent symbols of authority.

At the centre of the Frieze presentation are three paintings from Simpson’s *Bench Painting* series. Started in 1989, the series is an homage to Italian philosopher Giordano Bruno (1548–1600). Bruno espoused Copernican and Cosmic pluralism theory, despite the Catholic Church’s condemnation. After seven years of inquisition and torture, he was burnt alive for heresy. These paintings commemorate Bruno’s achievements in his relatively short lifetime, his enduring legacy, and acts as a reflection on the fragility of life. Accompanying these paintings are recent and new works from Simpson’s *Leper Squint*, *Confessional* and *Dead Cross* series.



Bench Painting 73, 2009, oil on canvas, 245 x 518 cm, 96 1/2 x 204 in (MA-SIMPM-00006) GBP £ 160,000

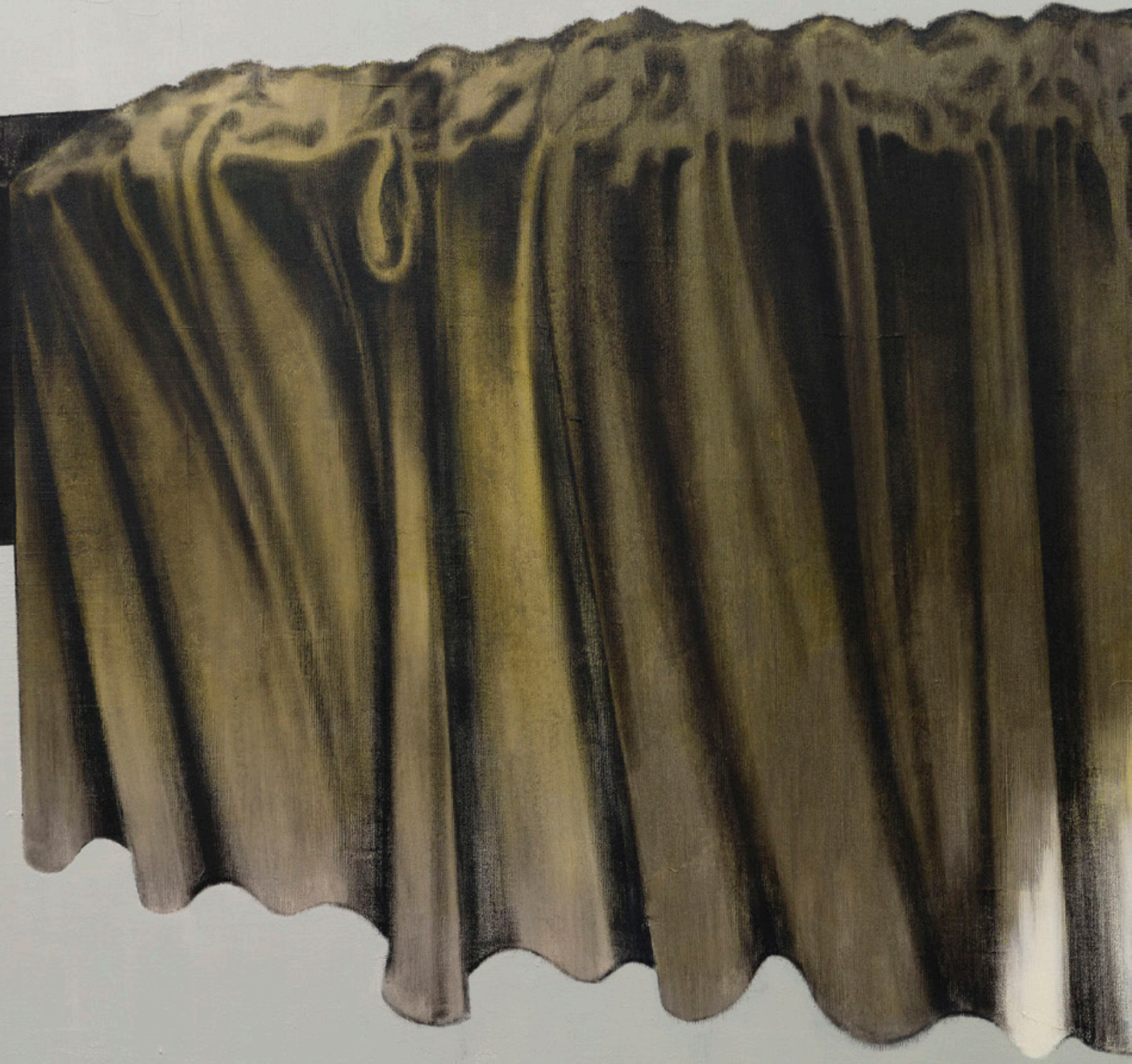


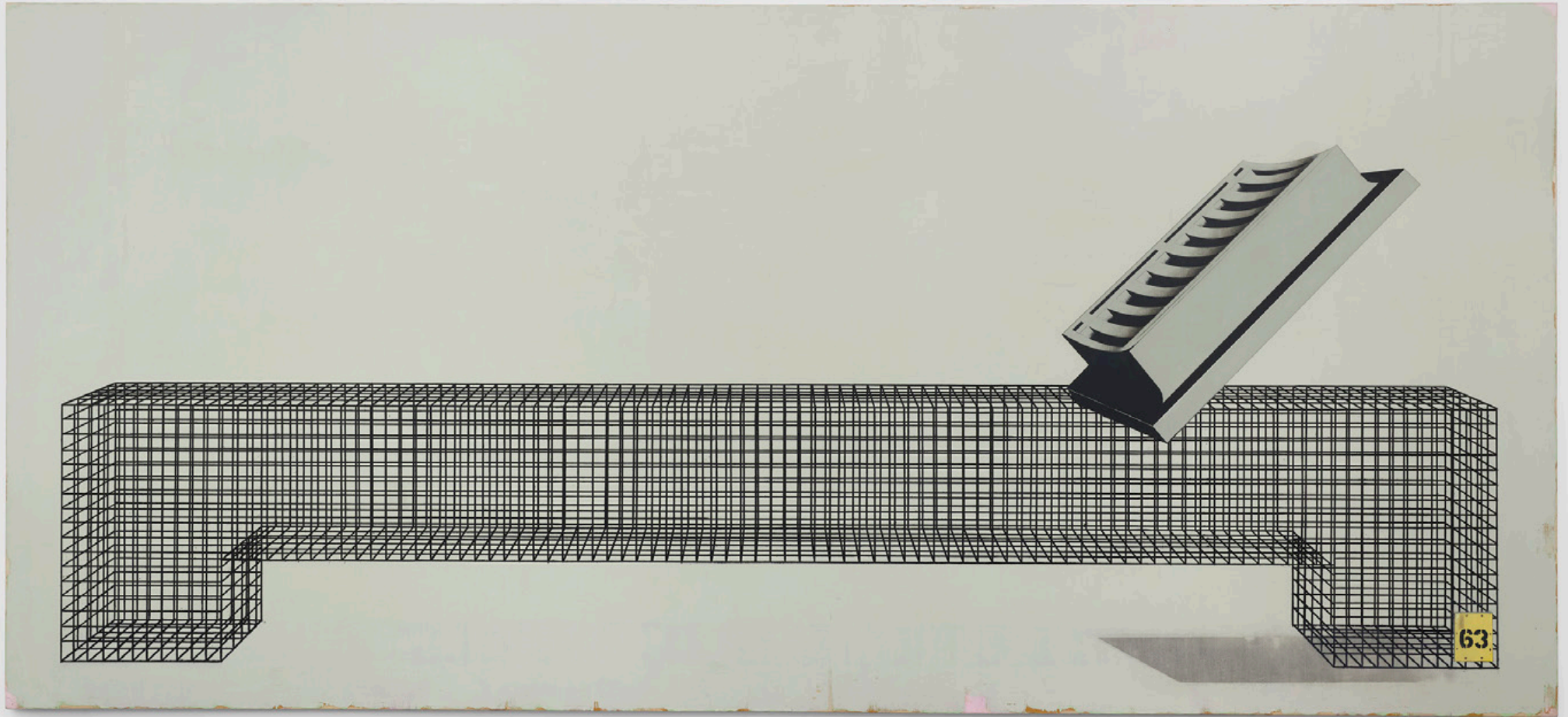




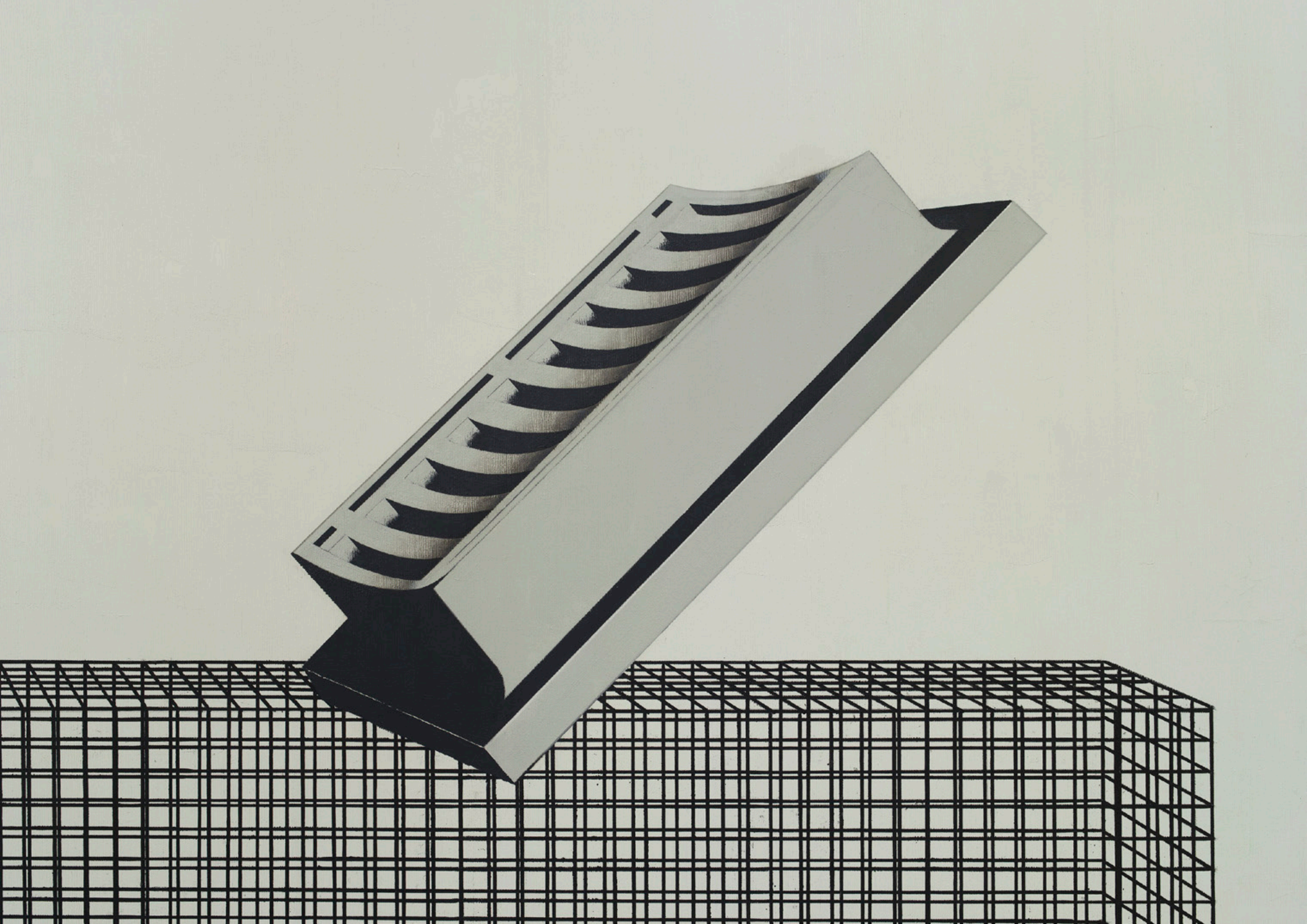
Bench Painting 70, 2007-08, oil on canvas, 244 x 518.5 cm, 96 x 204 1/8 in (MA-SIMPM-00235) GBP £ 160,000

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Bench Painting 63, 2007, oil on canvas, 244 x 534 cm, 96 x 210 1/4 in (MA-SIMPM-00233) GBP £ 160,000





Confessional No.21, 2023, oil on canvas, 230 x 300 cm, 90 1/2 x 118 1/8 in (MA-SIMPM-00161) GBP £ 135,000





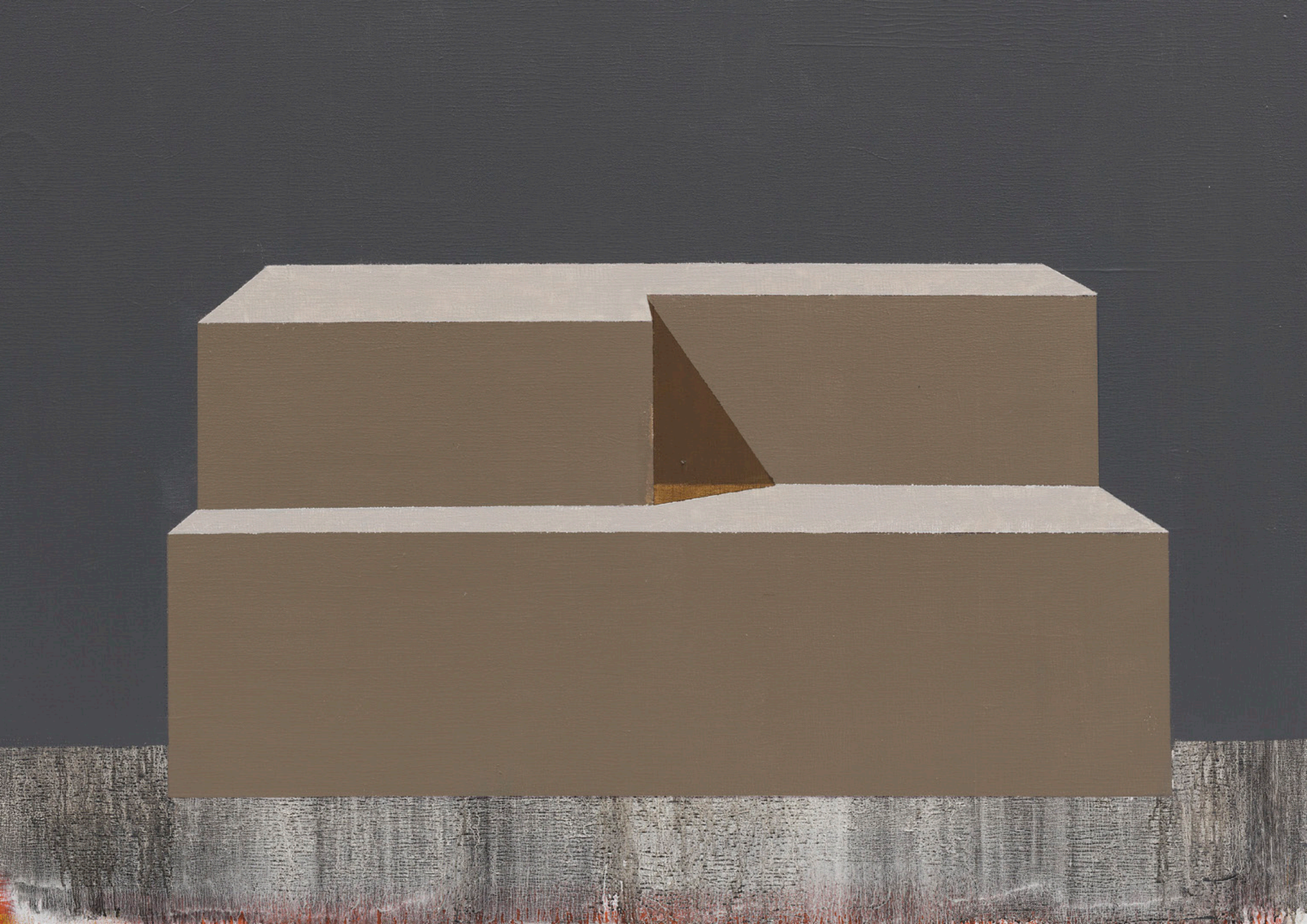
Dead Cross No.5, 2024, oil on canvas, each panel: 25.5 x 36 cm, 10 x 14 1/8 in, overall: 25.5 x 72 cm, 10 x 28 3/8 in (MA-SIMPM-00231) GBP £ 16,000



Dead Cross No.6, 2024, oil on canvas, each panel: 20 x 30 cm, 7 7/8 x 11 3/4 in, overall: 40 x 30 cm, 15 3/4 x 11 3/4 in (MA-SIMPM-00232) GBP £ 16,000



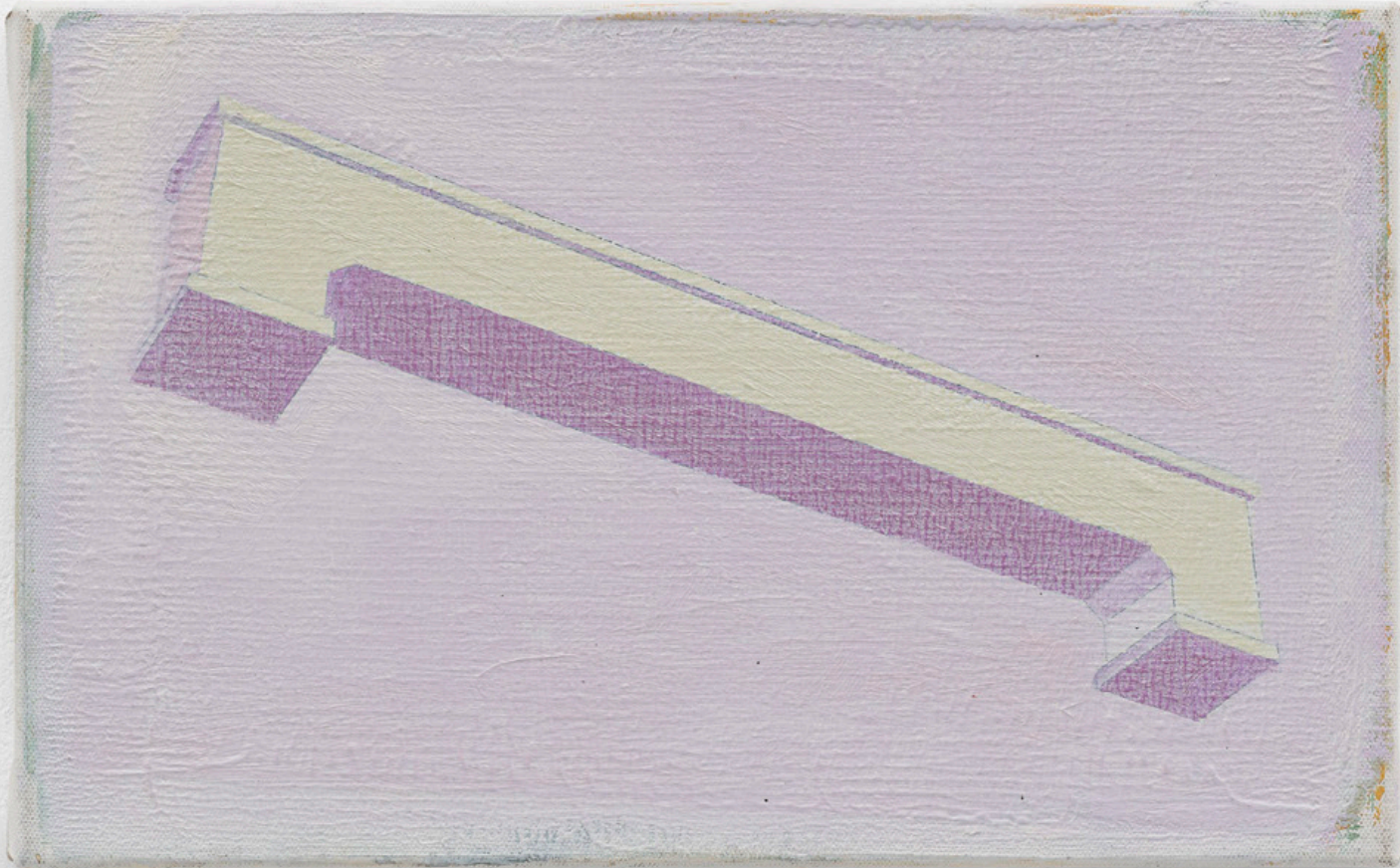
Squint 77, 2022, oil on canvas, 230 x 108 cm, 90 1/2 x 42 1/2 in (MA-SIMPM-00036) GBP £ 45,000



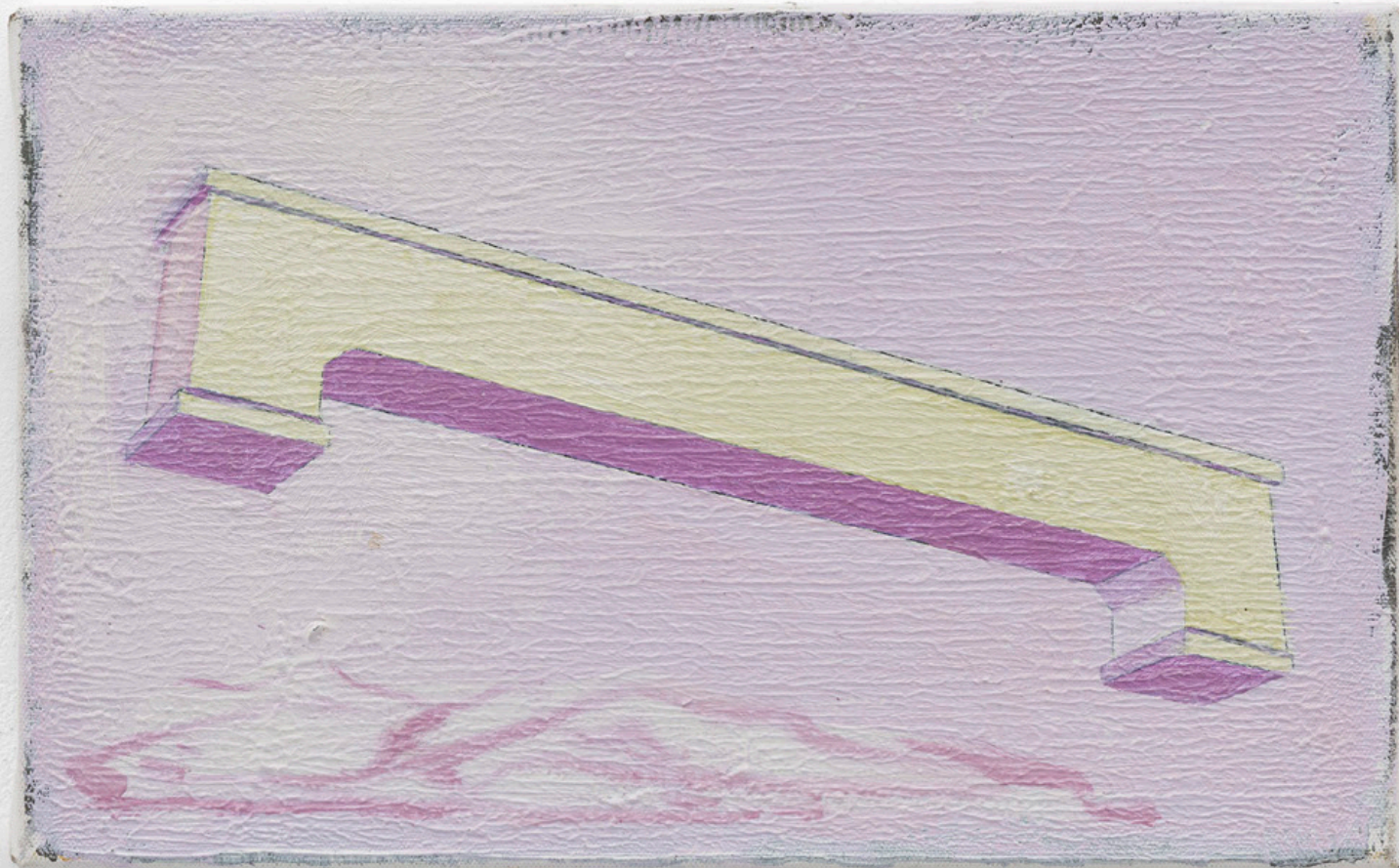


Squint 77 (b), 2024, oil on canvas, 230 x 108 cm, 90 1/2 x 42 1/2 in (MA-SIMPM-00269) GBP £ 45,000





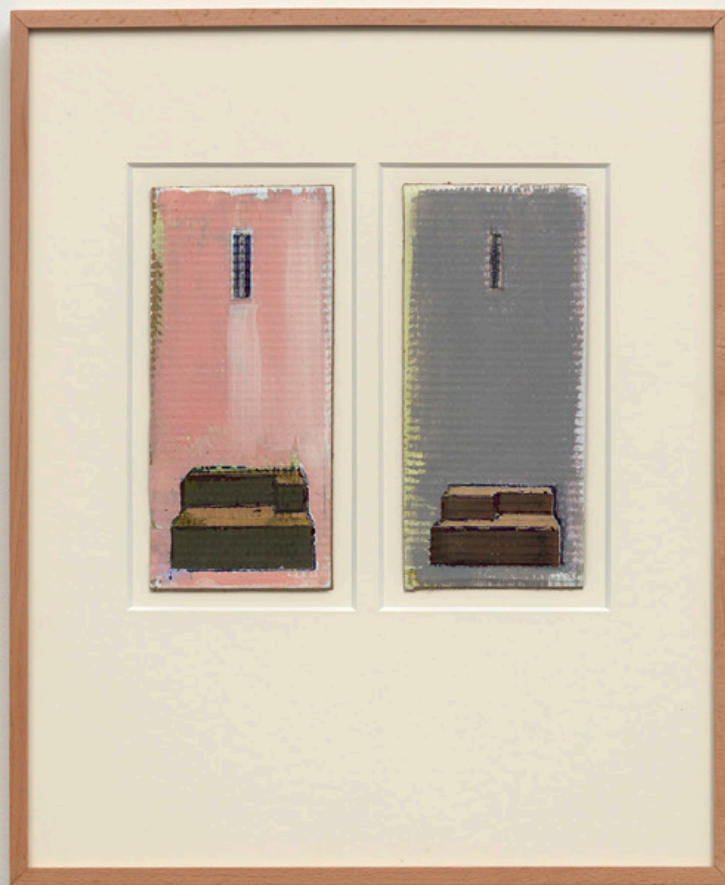
Untitled (Bench Painting), 2019, oil on canvas, 20.5 x 32.5 cm, 8 1/8 x 12 3/4 in (MA-SIMPM-00224) GBP £ 8,500



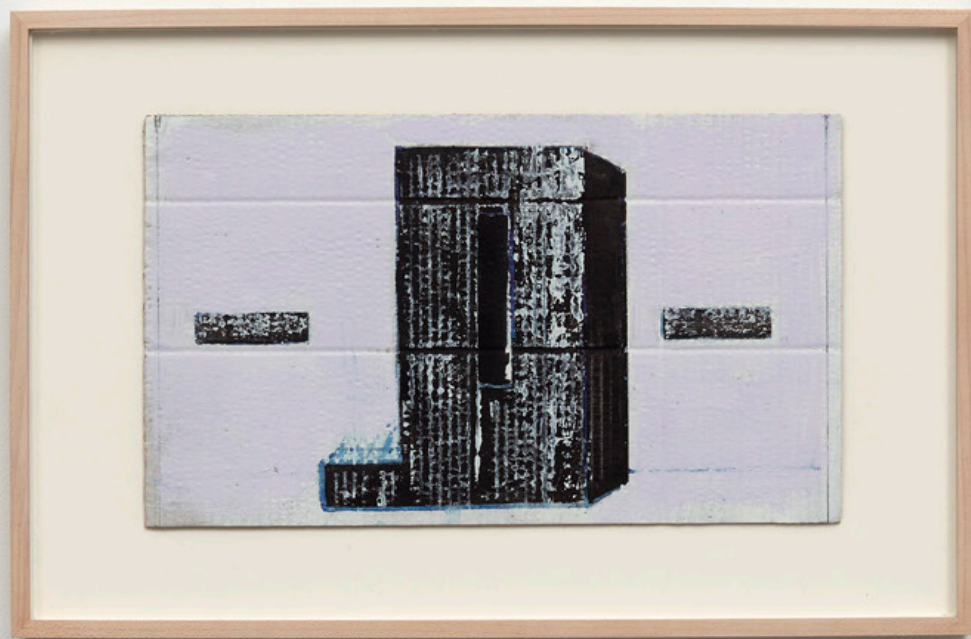
Untitled (Bench Painting), 2019, oil on canvas, 20.5 x 32.5 cm, 8 1/8 x 12 3/4 in (MA-SIMPM-00226) GBP £ 8,500



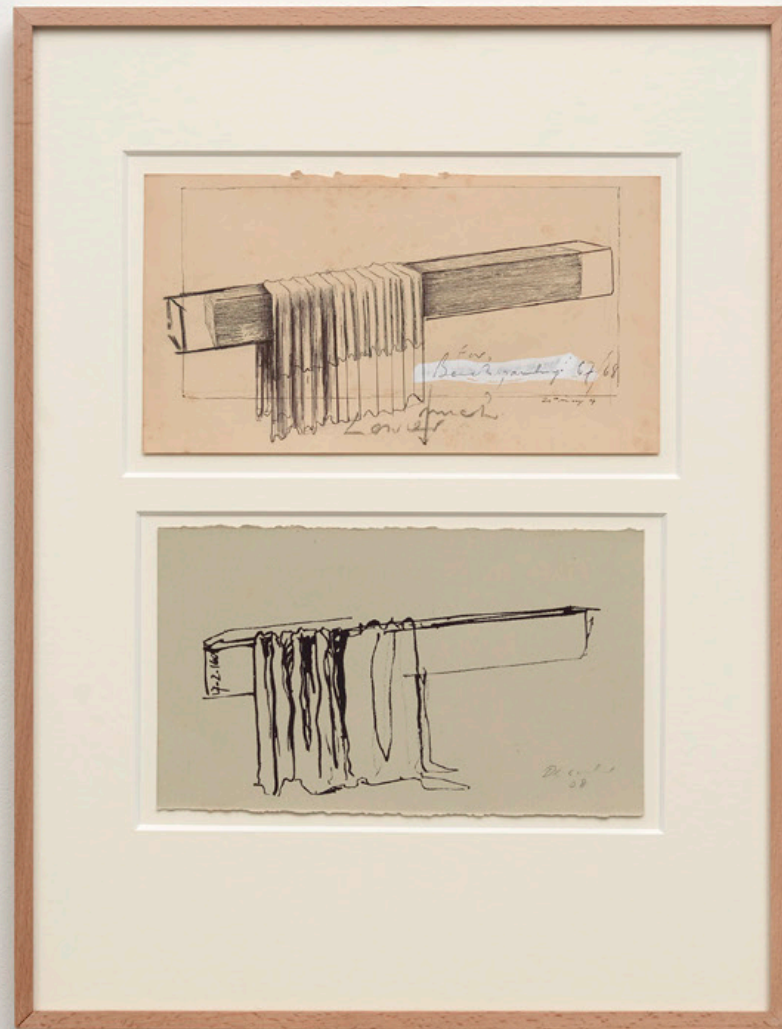
Squint Drawing, 2022, oil paint and charcoal on cardboard, work: 22.8 x 10.5 cm, 9 x 4 1/8 in, framed: 49.5 x 34.5 cm, 19 1/2 x 13 5/8 in (MA-SIMPM-00111) GBP £ 4,000



Squint Drawing, 2022, oil paint, Indian ink on cardboard, work: 23 x 25 cm, 9 1/8 x 9 7/8 in, framed: 49.5 x 41.5 cm, 19 1/2 x 16 3/8 in (MA-SIMPM-00116) GBP £ 4,500



Confessional Drawing, 2022, oil paint on cardboard, work: 20.5 x 35.5 cm, 8 1/8 x 14 in, framed: 31.5 x 49.5 cm, 12 3/8 x 19 1/2 in (MA-SIMPM-00174) GBP £ 4,500



Two Drawings for Bench Paintings 76 & 68, 2007-8, ink, pencil on paper, top: 15 x 27.5 cm, 5 7/8 x 10 7/8 in, bottom: 15 x 26 cm, 5 7/8 x 10 1/4 in, framed: 54.5 x 41.5 cm, 21 1/2 x 16 3/8 in (MA-SIMPM-00223) GBP £ 5,500



Drawing for Bench Painting, 2008, ink on paper napkin, 11 x 22 cm, 4 3/8 x 8 5/8 in, framed: 34.5 x 35 cm, 13 5/8 x 13 3/4 in (MA-SIMPM-00225) GBP £ 3,000



Michael Simpson in his studio, 2001

Prices exclude tax.
Subject to availability.

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