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Tibor de Nagy opens a solo exhibition of work by contemporary artist Jim Butler



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NEW YORK, NY - Tibor de Nagy Gallery presents *Synaptic Reverb*, a solo exhibition of work by contemporary artist Jim Butler, showcasing a cycle of six new paintings completed over the past two years. Butler's work centers on the question of what it means to be human in an age when boundaries between nature and technology collapse: a world of smoke and mirrors in which desire to solidly exist confronts a continually morphing biosphere.

In the paintings, figure-like apparitions congeal and dissolve as if governed by internal psychology or consciousness in the act of becoming. The DNA of these characters originates from blown glass—a material at once mercurial and fixed—with which Butler has worked extensively over the past 15 years.

Titles of works, such as *The Skeptic's Glance*, and *Stylish Woman*, offer clues to the nature of particular personages, strangely familiar albeit fantastical. In a provocative formal strategy, the paintings' highly calibrated realism allows us to experience slippage between visually specific surfaces and elusive atmospheres. The effect pushes us to wonder who and what these shape-shifting creatures are.

TIBOR DE NAGY

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Explains Butler, "I sculpt figures, exploiting the material's hypnotic optics to create visual perceptions simultaneously fluid and concrete. The result is a kind of spirit world populated with vivid personages immersed in shape-shifting spaces. I seek a kind of tenuous gravity. As imaginary portraits, the works speak to the collective anxiety of what it is to be human."

Painter and sculptor Jim Butler (American, b. 1956) is a graduate of RISD and Indiana University. He also attended Skowhegan and Yale-Norfolk. A Professor of Art at Middlebury College since the eighties, Butler lives and works between Vermont and Brooklyn. His paintings and sculptures have been exhibited internationally for over 30 years. This includes solo exhibitions at Buchmann Gallery, Berlin; and Lars Bohman Gallery, Stockholm. Recent projects include a 2016 solo exhibition of painting, glass, and installation at GRIDSPACE in Brooklyn, as well as a major iteration of his ongoing project "The City Of Your Dreams," recognized by The Corning Museum of Glass's "New Glass Review" in 2011. He has recently been selected as a 2018 Corning Museum Of Glass Resident Artist.

In addition to his studio practice, Butler works as a curator, initiating the Flatfile Collections at the Middlebury College Museum of Art. He most recently curated a 2016 three-person show titled "False Deities" at GRIDSPACE.