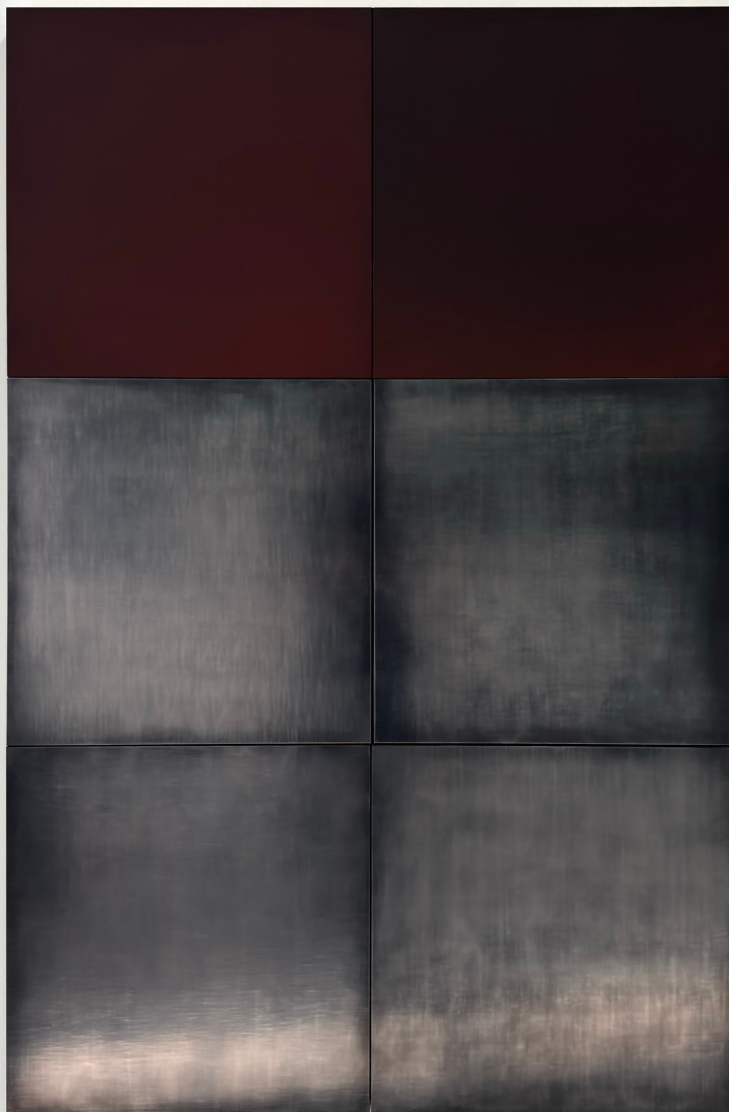


MATTHEW ALLEN
ROOM TONE



Alizarin Dark Double Stack, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
165 x 110 cm

Matthew Allen is a patient painter. Certainly his graphite surfaces can't be rushed. There is no opportunity for flourish and ornamentation. Even with the addition of the beautifully modulated coloured panels that now join the assembly of graphite panels, so as to build rhythmic sequences of colour and light, one has the sense that his painting practice is an act of sustained meditation.

The allure of graphite very much lies in its capacity to attract light, dance with it and at times swallow it whole, but before it achieves this range and amplitude it has to be coaxed into actuality.

One thinks of the sculpture of Donald Judd and his strong advocacy for the "specific object" where repetition of forms gather their own concrete reality and don't aspire to hidden meaning or narrative. But in both Judd and Allen, such a fundamentalist position is not always easy to defend as material, be it aluminium or graphite, can't help but consort with light and ensnare the colours of the environment so that the experience of the works is shaped by the space in which it and the viewer participate.

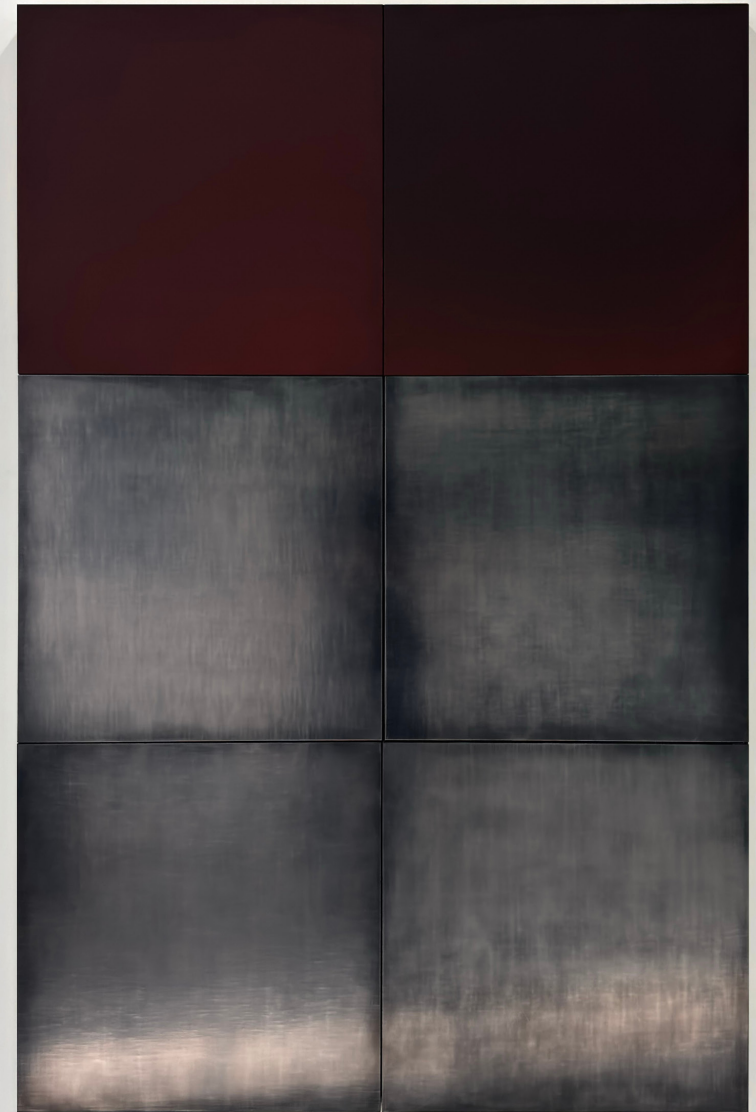
His desire to collapse the distinction between the orthodox illusionary space of painting and the viewer is not uncommon - from Fra Angelico's monastic cells at San Marco to Rothko's Houston Chapel. One also thinks of the extraordinary frescoes of David Novros where the symbiosis between architecture and form, between colour and atmosphere is so collaborative so as to place us inside the painting.

The modest scale of Matthew Allen's paintings necessarily compresses this ambition, but crucially these are paintings are often calibrated to the size of the head rather than the body. Thus we are invited into close proximity with the works in an exchange that is much more tete-a-tete than vituvian.

This is the fifth solo exhibition of Matthew Allen's with the galleries.



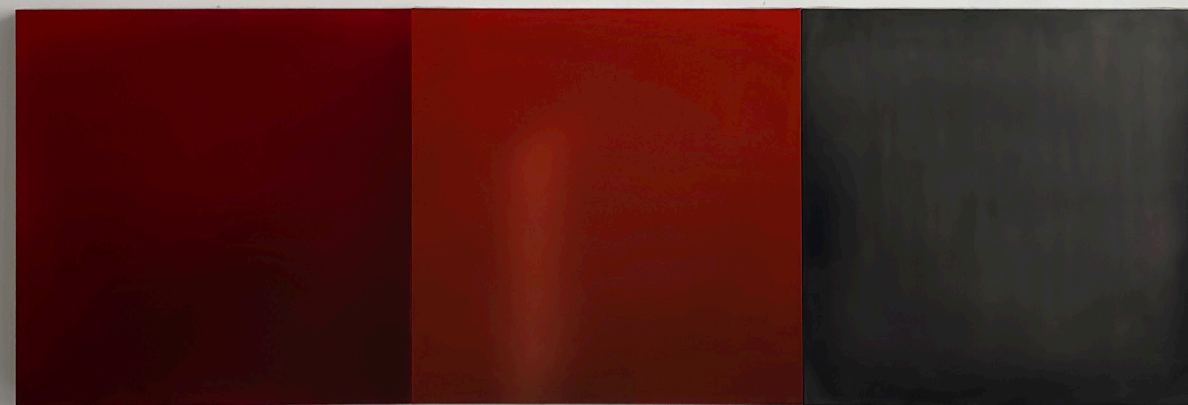
Alizarin Dark Double Stack, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
165 x 110 cm



Tonal Triptych - Yellow Ochre, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
55 x 165 cm



Tonal Triptych - Reds, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
55 x 165 cm





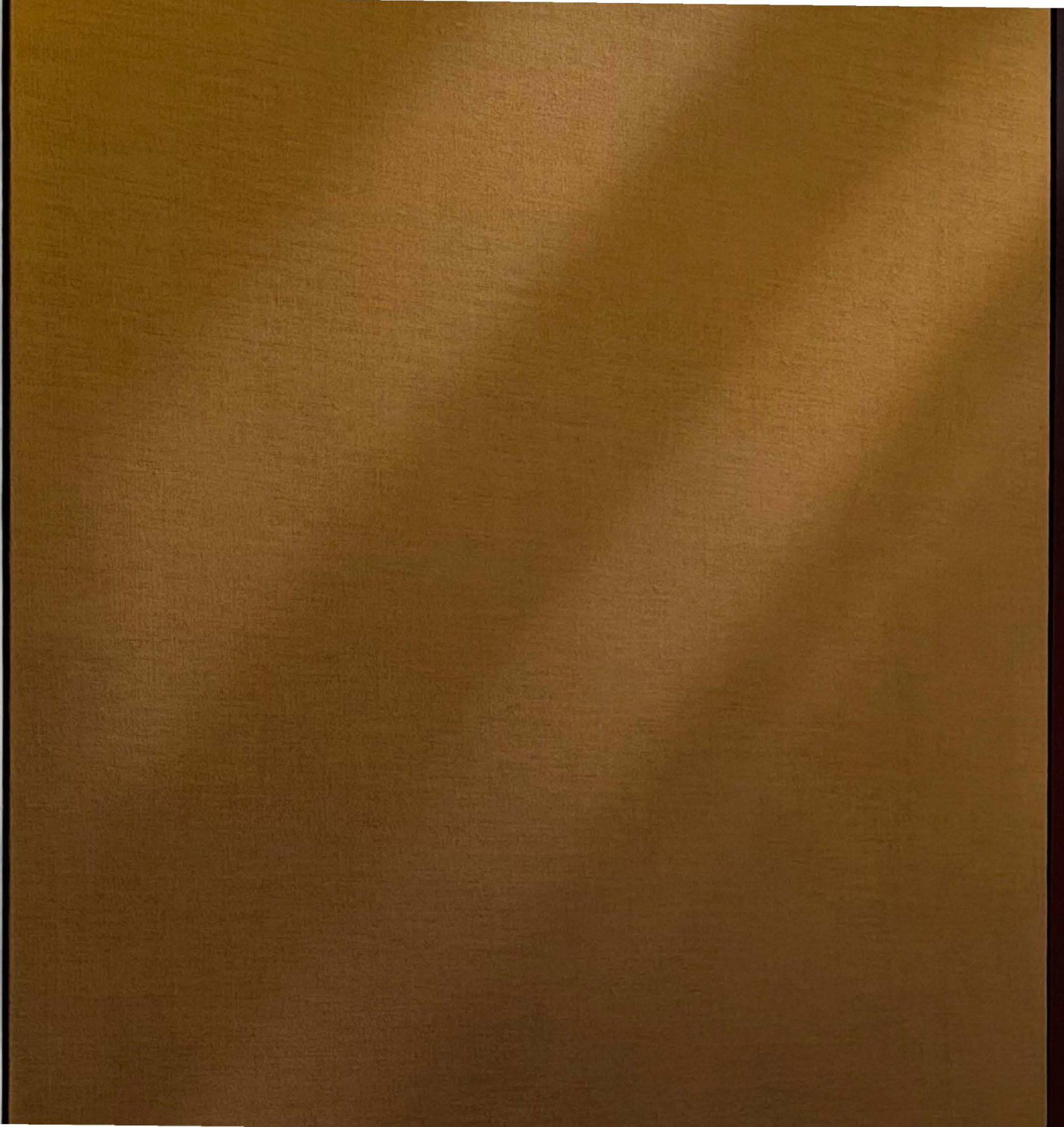
Tonal Triptych - Ochre Maroon, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
55 x 165 cm



Alizarin Cycle, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
40 x 45 cm each

Alizarin Dark Double Stack, Dark Brown, 2025
Acrylic and Polished Graphite on Linen
90 x 84 cm





FOX JENSEN McCRORY
FOX JENSEN