

**ALEXIS HARDING | SEAN SHANAHAN | DANIEL STURGIS**  
**Skin deep**

*What is deeper in man is the skin (Paul Valéry).*

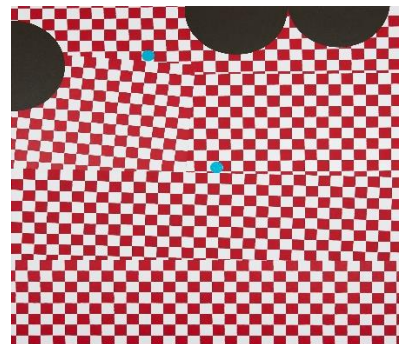
The skin, is the first boundary of the body. As a border between man and inner and outer worlds it can be equated with the skin of a painting. Hence the title of the exhibition *Skin deep* featuring the artists Alexis Harding (London, 1973), Daniel Sturgis (London, 1966) and Sean Shanahan (Dublin, 1960). The three authors are interested in the icon or embodiment of painting and will be present at the opening of the exhibition, Friday 6 September, at the Antonella Cattani Gallery. The works on display have been selected to represent the language and poetics that distinguish them.



Alexis Harding Turner, 2011



Sean Shanahan, Untitled 2018



Daniel Sturgis, The way it is, 2018

Alexis Harding's Colour chart paintings are inescapably centred upon their own materiality, using oil paint and household gloss paint, the paintings are subjected to movement and change. Oil paint is applied horizontally flat on the floor, whilst the surface is still wet household paint is poured through it. A long drying process is interrupted by sudden and carefully manipulated movements in the formation of the image. A chemical reaction then occurs between the two types of paint, allowing for 'a period of instability' in which the skin forms and the top layer is free to slide across that which is below it. The paintings seek out new areas for abstraction and are made through a combination of chance, intuition, control and contingency. The surface of the finished work appears to be caught in perpetual suspension and movement.

Sean Shanahan's painting is defined by its interaction with and occupation of space; instead of a subtraction of the painting itself, it focuses on the rigor of a language that proceeds from basic elements to create elaborated constructions.

The paintings on medium-density fibreboard have defined and 'shaped' edges that, in addition to functioning as an entrance to the encounter with the painting itself, move it away from the two-dimensionality the wall, creating a series of geometric references projecting them into what becomes an articulated space. A dialogue is thus established between the pictorial and the sculptural dimension as well as between programmed construction and naturalness.

The paintings of Daniel Sturgis are distinguished by a playful characteristic; the very pronounced grid pattern inside the paintings can lead one to thinking about games, especially chess, but also

about paintings theoretical relationship to play, hierarchy and strategy. The artist conceives the paintings in relation to the creation of an orderly systems, while also allowing imperfection to enter into that system. The elements within the work must be balanced in relation to the size of a hand - the artist states - "one must feel that they can move". Sturgis says "in my work, I use a repertoire of shapes, colours and repetitions that suggest different readings or possibilities without ever becoming completely any of them. The gaze of the observer can thus proceed in a game of associations."

Alexis Harding was born in London, UK, in 1973 where he lives and works. He graduated from Goldsmiths College, BA (Hons) Fine Art in London and has exhibited nationally and Internationally. In 2004 he won the John Moore Prize for painting. His works are present in numerous collections including: the Irish Museum of Modern art in Dublin, The Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool, the Arts Council collection and numerous private collections. In 2020 he will have a solo exhibition at MAC Lissone museum.

Sean Shanahan was born in Dublin in 1960. Lives and works in Brianza. His first personal exhibition was held in 1983 in Milan. After a long research more focused on geometry in recent years his poetics, marked by a reinvention of monochrome and by the shaping of the support, has decidedly focused on interaction with space. Numerous solo shows and group exhibitions have been held in galleries and institutions. Among the most recent are the solo exhibition at the Hugh Lane Gallery in Dublin, Seven last words at the Galleria San Fedele in Milan and the group show State of mind / The Panza Collection which combined his works with those of seven other artists from the Panza di Biumo collection .

Daniel Sturgis was born in London, UK in 1966 where he lives and works. He graduated from the Camberwell College of Art 1986-89 and at Goldsmiths College in 1992-94. He held his first one-man show at the Camden Arts Centre London in 1997 followed by numerous solo and group exhibitions, including the one at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa (Texas) in 2007 and the group show *The Indiscipline of Painting* at Tate St. Ives in 2011. In 2010 he was awarded a prize at the John Moores at the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool. In 2017 he took part in the group show *The Playground Structure* at Blain Southern in London.

**6. 09. 2019 - 25. 10. 2019**

**OPENING HOURS**

<b>Mon - Fri</b>	10.00 - 12.30 15.30 - 19.30
<b>Sat</b>	10.00 - 12.30

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