

**Press release**

**Julie Mehretu | *Metokos (in between drawings)***

10 September – 30 October, 2021

Opening: Friday, 10 September 2021, 3 – 9 pm

carlier | gebauer, Madrid, is pleased to announce *Metokos (in between drawings)*, a solo exhibition of recent drawings by the American artist Julie Mehretu. This will be her first solo exhibition at the gallery's new location in Calle de José Marañón 4 in Madrid.

Whether working in painting, drawing, or printmaking, a constant in Julie Mehretu's work is her insistent probing of the "space between" as a zone of possibility and resistance. From her earliest works, which she described as "story maps with no location," to the bold graphic quality of her architectural drawings to the expressive mark making in her most recent work, drawing has played a significant role in the evolution of Mehretu's practice. A medium marked by the interplay between spontaneity and control, rational thinking and intuition, the rhythms of drawing articulate a precarious space where a sense of place slips away in favor of a "sonic, pulsing system of half links, half-consciousness, [and]half-wit." Drawing forms a kind of concretion of the new, bits of the past, place, data, mark, detritus—in Mehretu's words, a "physical, sensorial image that is a time-based, emergent experience."

*Metokos (in between drawings)* will present a selection of intimately scaled ink drawings. This suite of drawings, executed in the same size and materials, imparts the feeling of navigating an ever-fluctuating internal landscape. Nothing is static, and similar marks and movements play out across these works to startlingly different effects. Animated tangles of dynamic black lines and grey smudges oscillate between densely frenetic accumulations and looser, more open compositions—some of which seem to contain a hint of the human form.

**Julie Mehretu** (b.1970, Addis Ababa) lives and works in New York City. She was named one of the "100 most influential people" by Time Magazine in 2020. Other selected awards and honors include the "Liberty Award for Artistic Leadership" given each year by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council (LMCC), New York (2018); The US State Department's "National Medal of Arts"(2015); The American Academy's "Berlin Prize" (2007); and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's "MacArthur Fellowship" (2005).

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Los Angeles and the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York recently co-organized a mid-career survey of Mehretu's work, which also traveled and will travel to the High Museum, Atlanta and the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis. Her work has been exhibited extensively in museums and biennials including at the Carnegie International (2004–05), MUSAC, Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Castilla y León, León (2006), Sydney Biennial (2006), Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, New York (2010), DOCUMENTA (13) (2012), Sharjah Biennial (2015), Centro Botín, Fundación Botín, Santander (2017), Museu de Arte Contemporânea de Serralves, Porto, Portugal (2017), Kettle's Yard, University of Cambridge, UK (2019); and the 58th International Art Exhibition, La Biennale di Venezia (2019).