CHRISTOPHER CUTTS GALLERY



JOHN MEREDITH

last breaths

JUNE 6 - JUNE 29, 2024

DIGITAL CATALOGUE

JOHN MEREDITH
JUNE 6 - JUNE 29, 2024 *last breaths*

The Christopher Cutts Gallery is pleased to announce our upcoming exhibition, "John Meredith, Last Breaths," featuring never-before-seen paintings from among his final studio works.

John Meredith's last breaths were spent between cigarettes and bronchodilators, likely with a paintbrush in hand. Unwilling to let go of his vices for the sake of his health, he persisted in his habits until the end. Just as he was unmoved by the everchanging trends of abstract painting, Meredith concluded his life and practice in his own distinctive fashion.

The paintings included in "John Meredith, Last Breaths" are a gestural extension of his dragged-line works of the 1960s and 1970s. 1990's Yume is light, fresh, and sparing in nature, but the artist's unmistakably deft hand endures through it, nevertheless. Conversely, paintings like Emperor (c. 1993) and Key Largo (c. 1993) are so dynamic in their use of colour and impasto that they almost exceed his past works in their boldness. The black strokes Meredith was once known for are notably absent from these canvases, demonstrating his technical evolution as he progressed past the need for clearly defined contour lines.

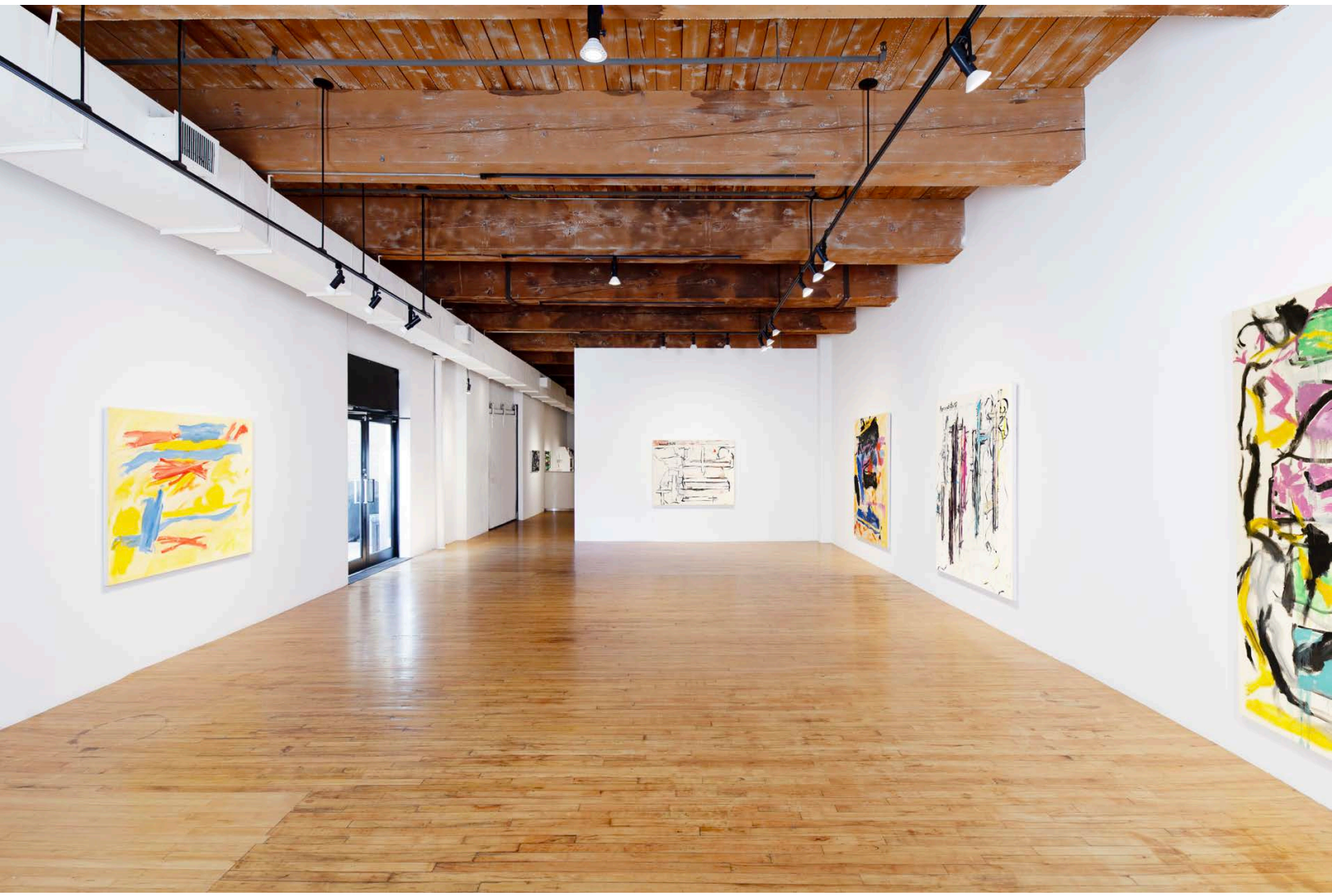
Early in his career, Meredith carved out a unique niche for his practice at the bustling Isaacs Gallery, developing an artistic vernacular that would grant him acclaim with critics, collectors, and rising artists alike. Despite his demure reputation, Meredith held a level of celebrity—albeit abstracted by his hermetic tendencies. While his introversion was often exaggerated, the artist certainly valued interiority, emphasizing an instinctive and intellectual approach to painting that reflected his own thoughts and subconscious.

Despite his experiments and subsequent shifts in form, colour, and line, Meredith never abandoned his visual dialect. Rather, he adapted it, allowing it to expand to accommodate the introduction of new ideas and philosophies, as any language would. Appropriately, these final major studio works, completed in the 1990s before his hospitalization due to emphysema, demonstrate a certain eloquence: uncluttered and succinct.

"John Meredith, Last Breaths" will showcase the conclusive evolution of Meredith's enigmatic visual vernacular, for which he was critically celebrated throughout his career. In the same manner that he was unwilling to surrender his lifestyle for his illness, Meredith saw that his characteristic delicate sensibility persisted through the capricious art trends of the 20th century and into these final paintings.

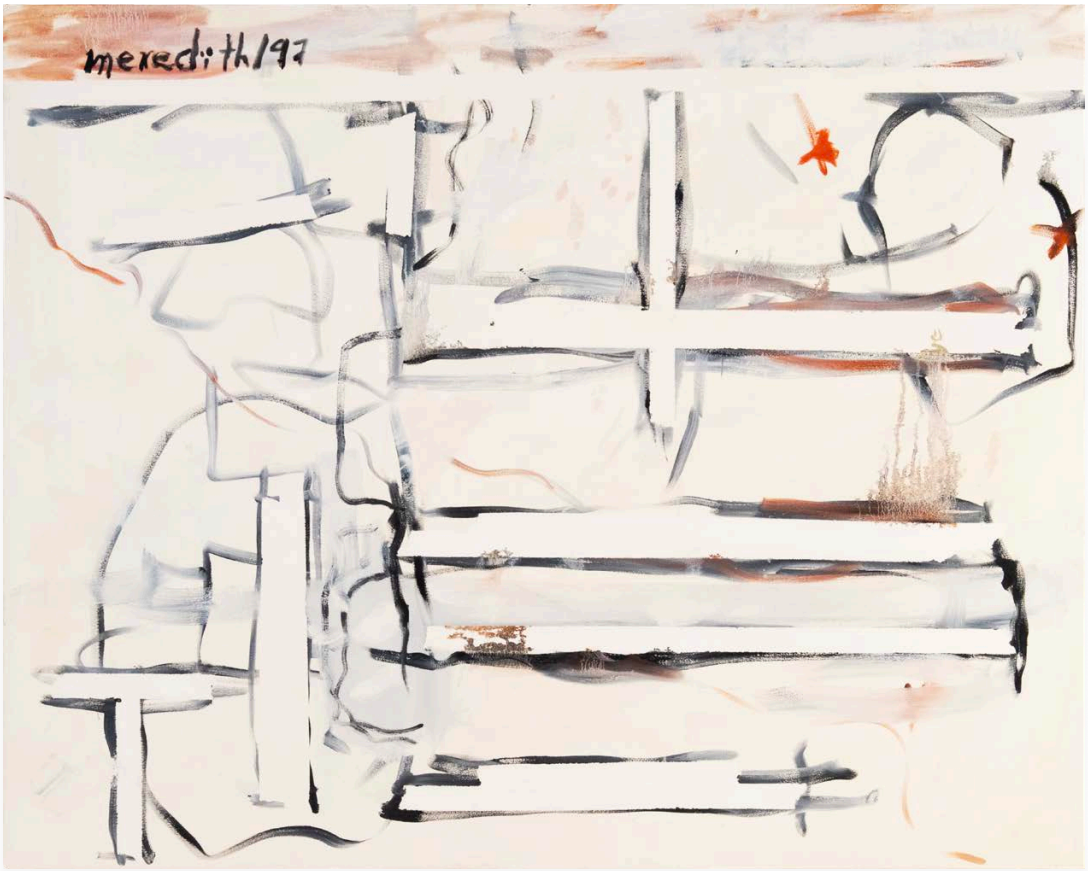
For more details and media enquiries, please contact 416-532-5566 or info@cuttsgallery.com.
This exhibition will run from June 6, 2024 – June 29, 2024.

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south gallery, north wall

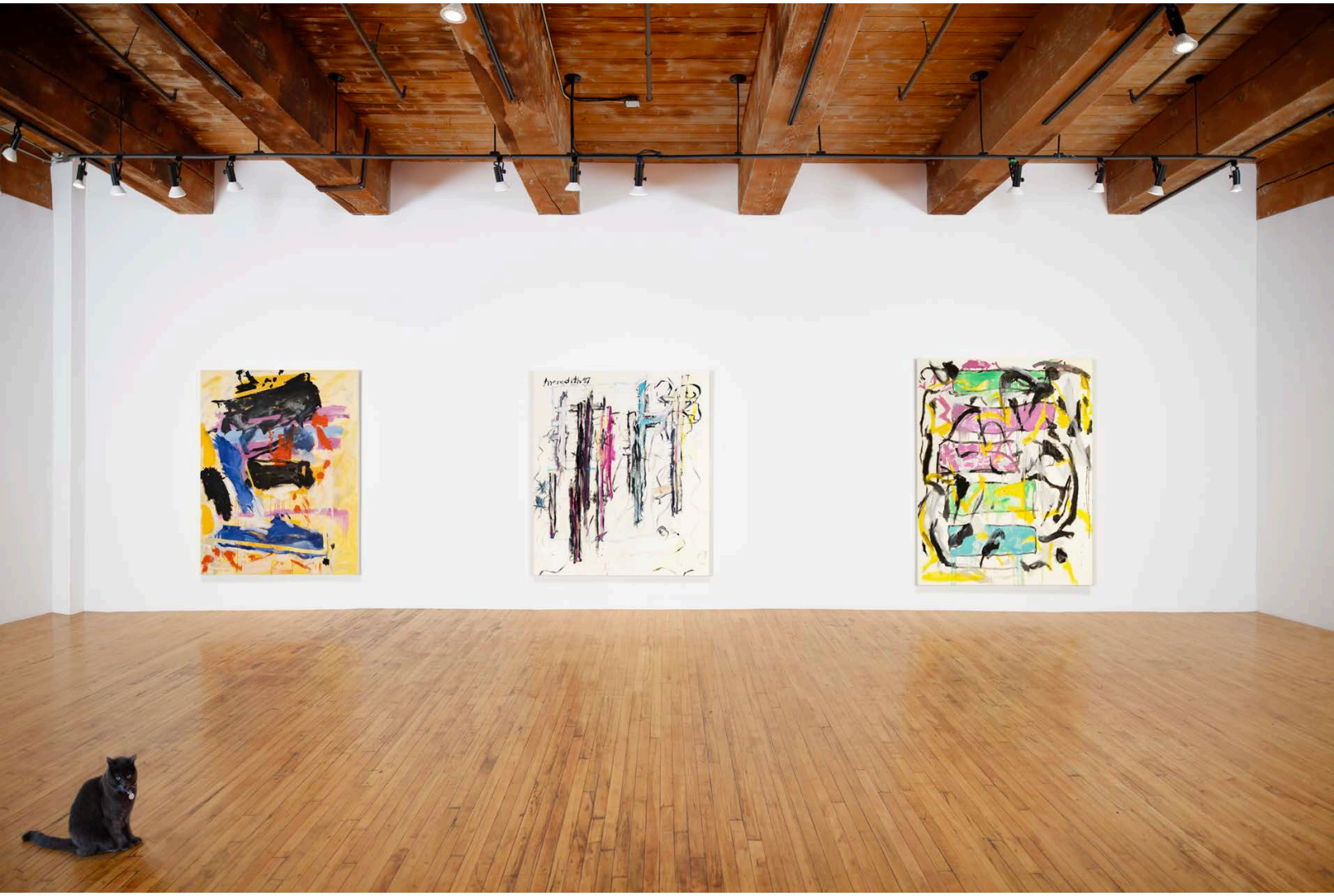
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JOHN MEREDITH
Untitled
1997
oil on canvas
48 x 60 inches (122 x 152.5 cm)

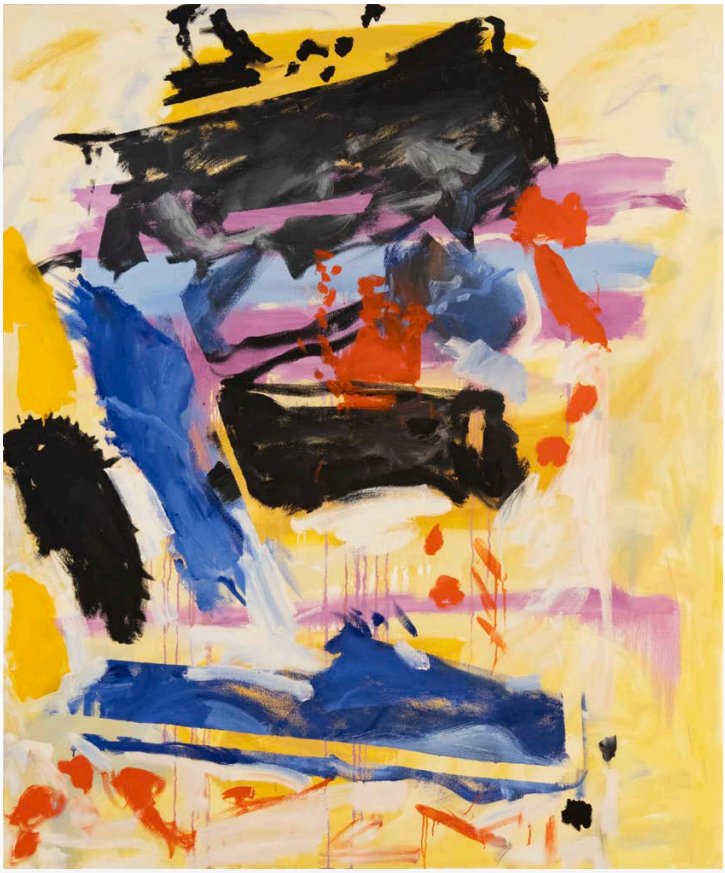


Detail: Untitled, 1997



south gallery, east wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Tangiers No II
1990
oil on canvas
72 x 60 inches (183 x 152.5 cm)

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Detail: Tangiers No II, 1990

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Untitled
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oil on canvas
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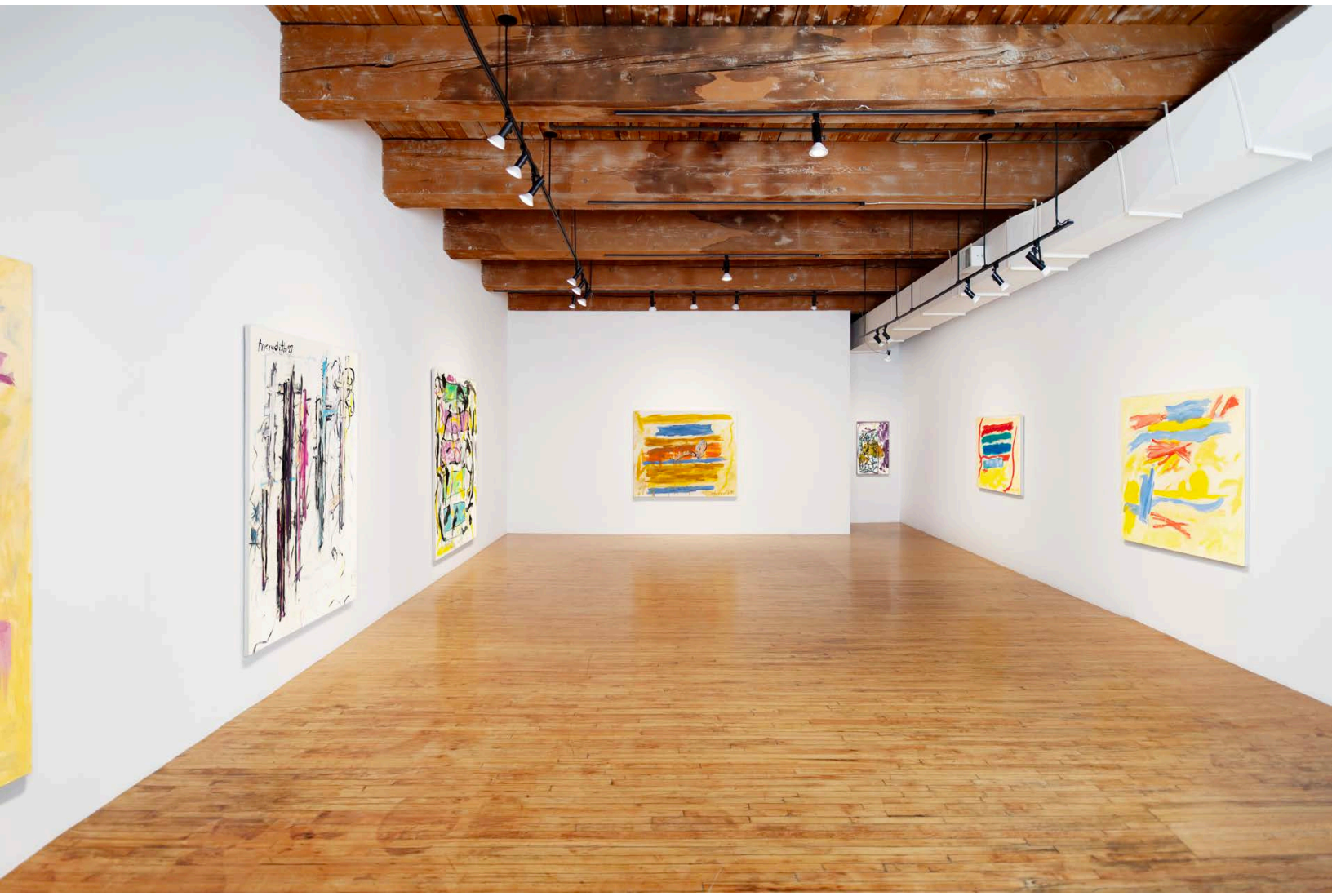
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JOHN MEREDITH
Key Largo
c. 1993
oil on canvas
79.5 x 69.5 inches (202 x 176.5 cm)



Detail: Key Largo, c. 1993



south gallery, south wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Reclining Figure
1990
oil on canvas
54 x 65 inches (137 x 165 cm)

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JOHN MEREDITH
Untitled
c. 1994
oil on canvas
38 x 24 inches (96.5 x 61 cm)

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Detail: Untitled, c.1994



south gallery, west wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Untitled
1990
oil on canvas
36 x 48 inches (91.5 x 122 cm)

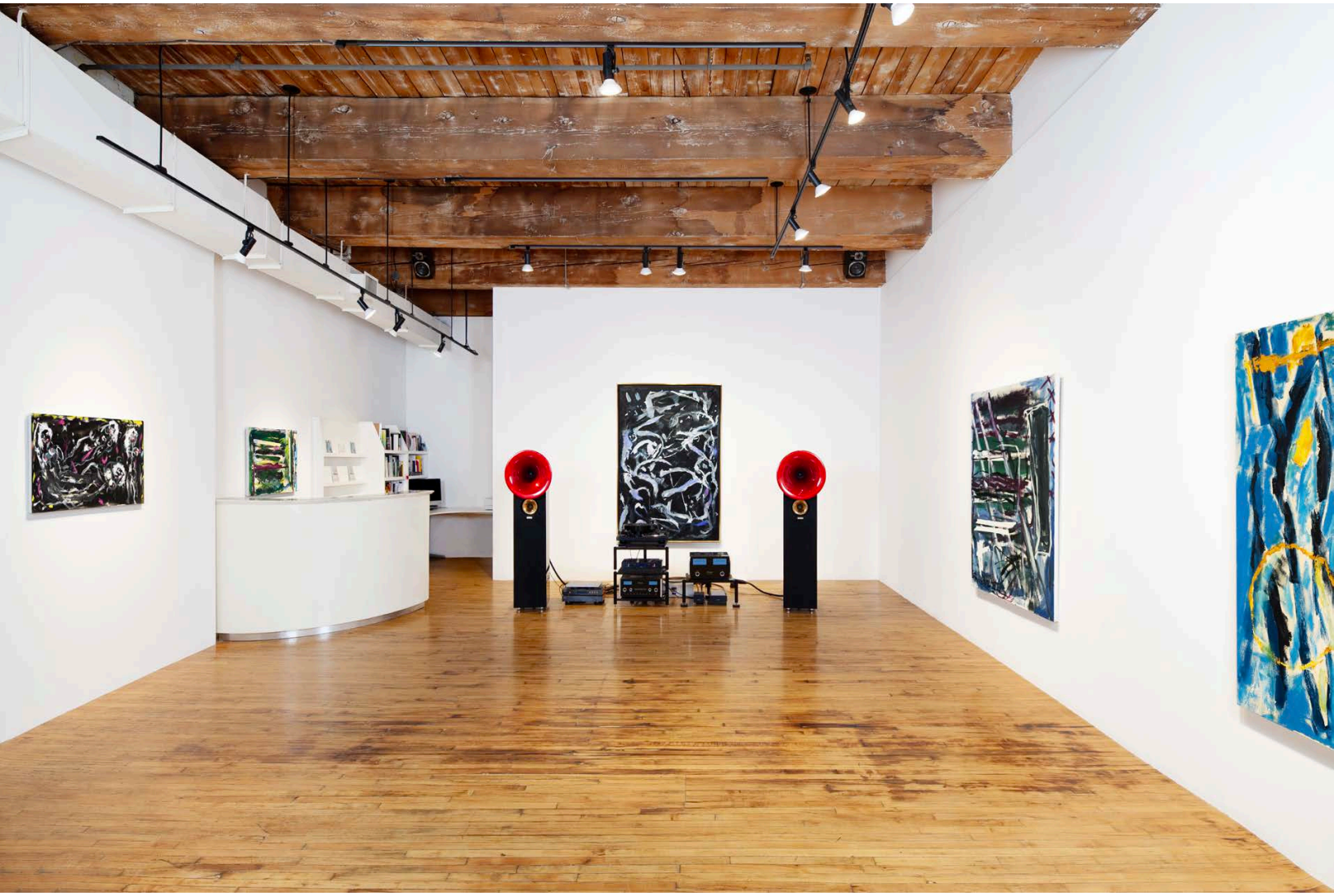
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JOHN MEREDITH
Season's Summer
1990
oil on canvas
48 x 60 inches (122 x 152.5 cm)



Detail: Season's Summer, 1990

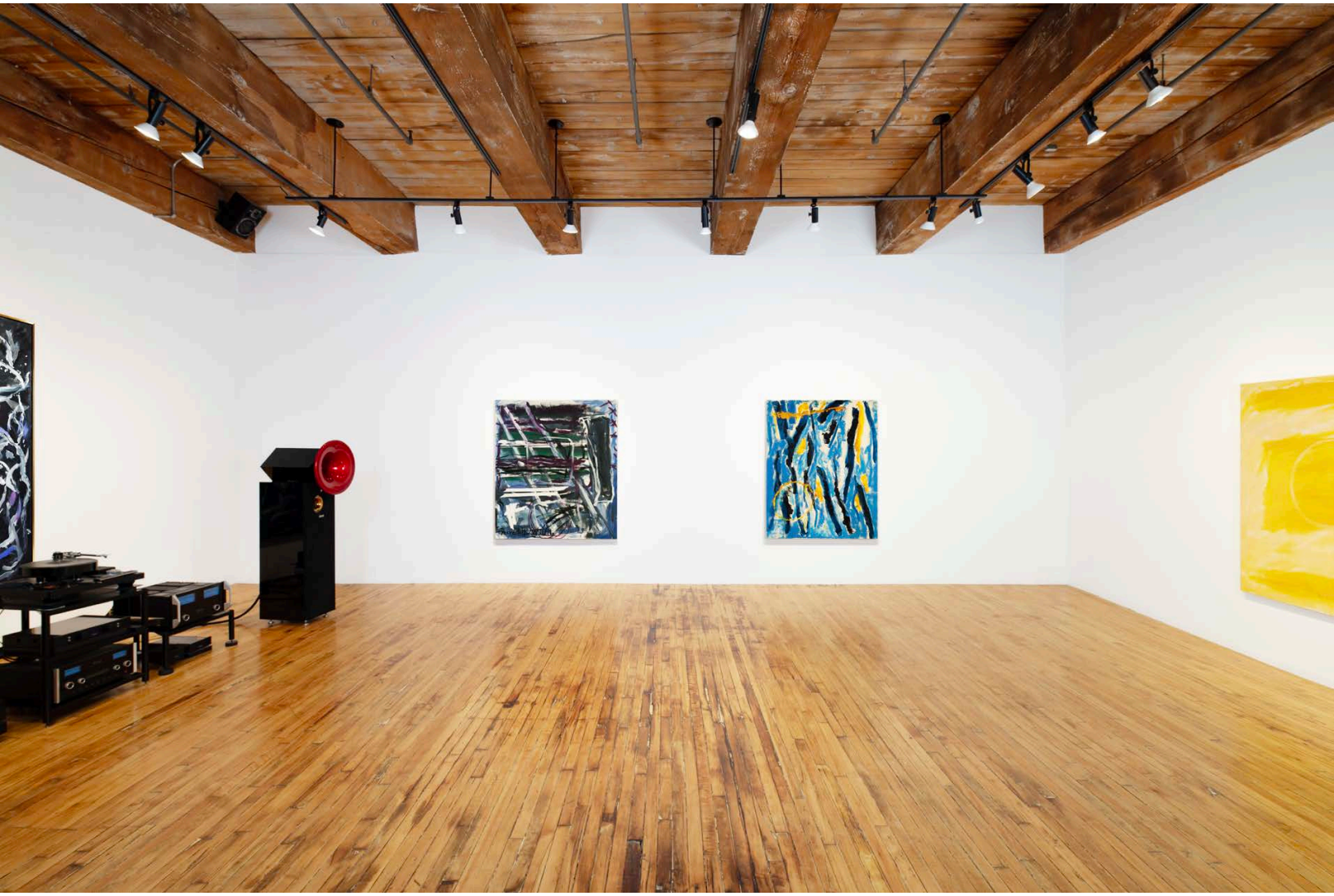


north gallery, north wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Eroica
1994
oil on canvas
74 x 49 inches (188 x 124.5 cm)
76 x 51.75 inches (193 x 131.5 cm) framed



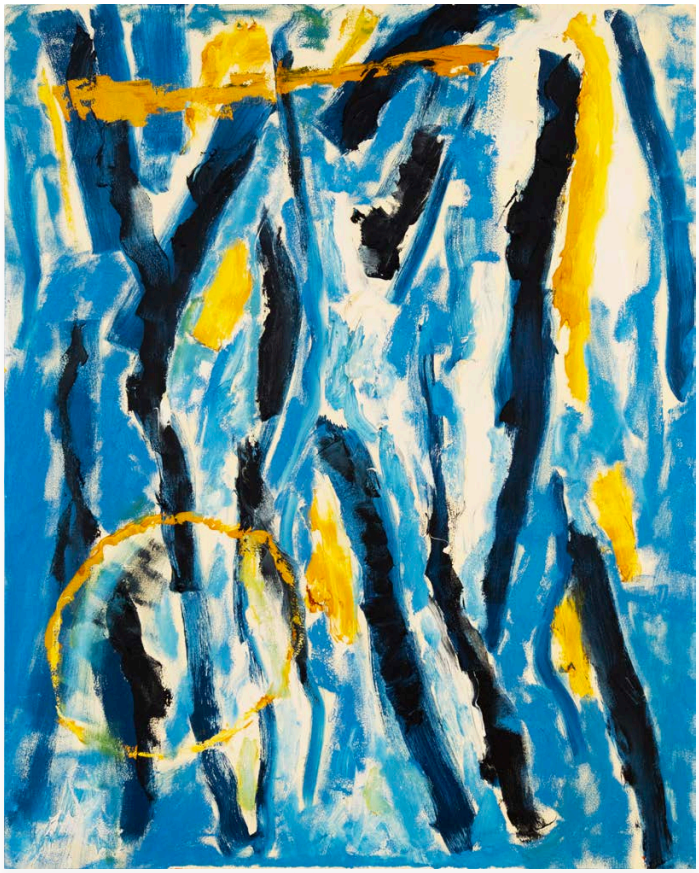
north gallery, east wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Gonoud's Faust II
1994
oil on canvas
60 x 52.5 inches (152.5 x 133.5 cm)

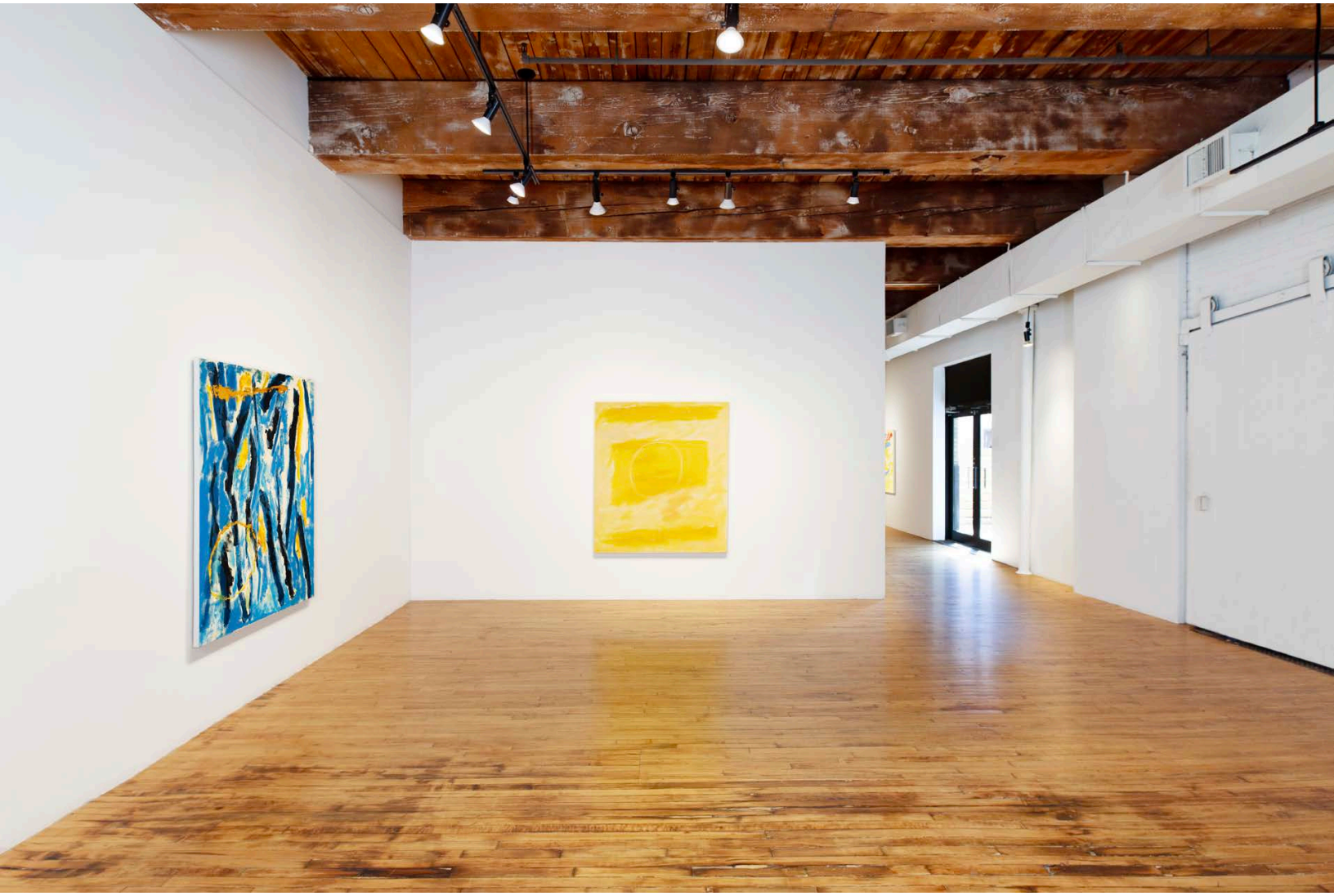
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JOHN MEREDITH
Emperor
c. 1993
oil on canvas
60 x 48 inches (152.5 x 122 cm)



Detail: Emperor, c. 1993

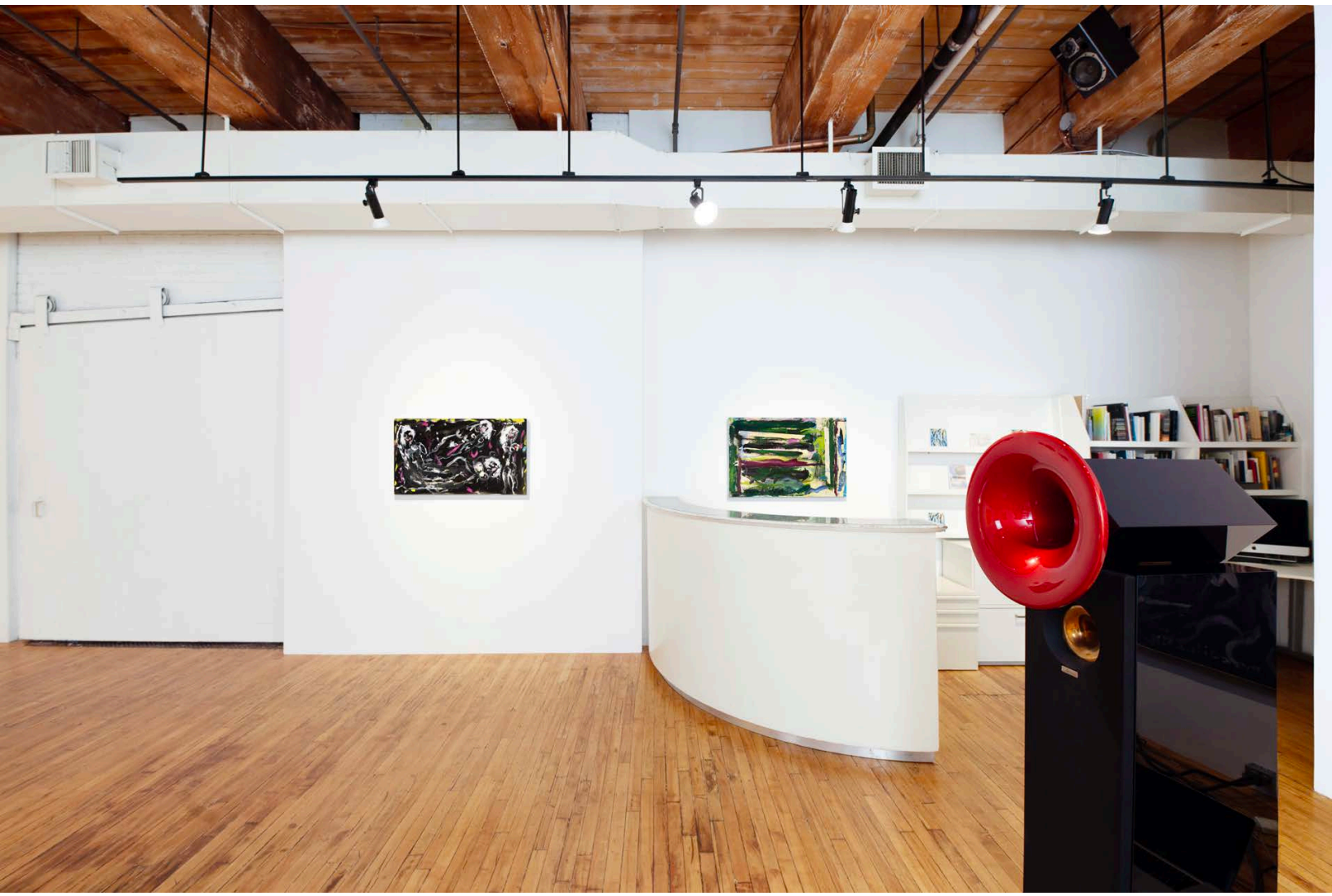


north gallery, south wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Yume
1990
oil on canvas
60 x 52.5 inches (152.5 x 133.5 cm)



north gallery, west wall

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JOHN MEREDITH
Untitled
1999
oil on canvas
22.5 x 38.5 inches (57 x 98 cm)

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Detail: Tangiers No II, 1990

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JOHN MEREDITH
Gonoud In a Landscape
1994 Jul.
oil on canvas
24 x 36 inches (61 x 91.5 cm)