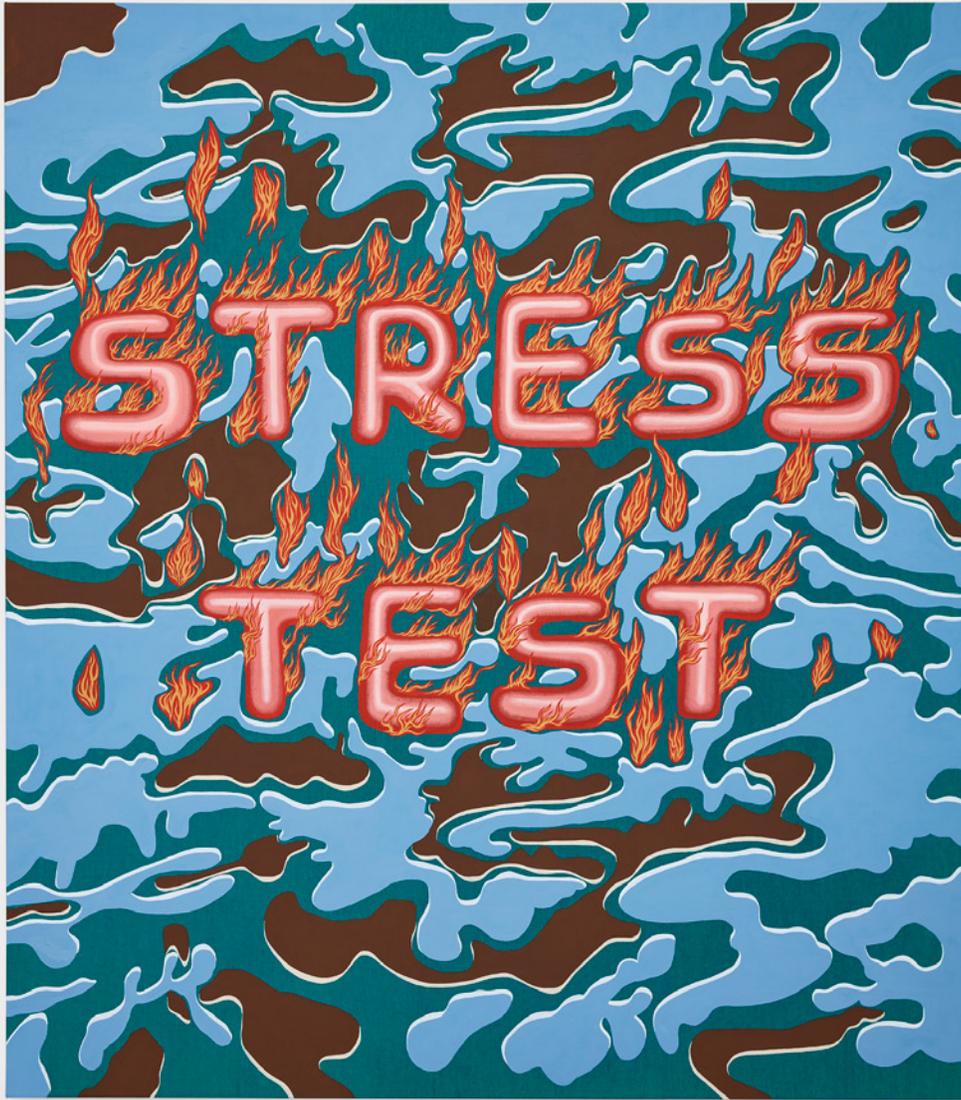


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LGDR 厲蔚閣



Joel Mesler, *Untitled (Stress Test)*, 2022. Pigment on linen 80 × 70 inches (2032 × 1778 cm). © Joel Mesler. Courtesy LGDR.

### **Joel Mesler *Mental States***

June 21 – July 7  
LGDR & Wei 2 Ice House Street  
Central, Hong Kong

LGDR is pleased to present new works from Joel Mesler's latest series in Hong Kong this summer. Employing words and images, Mesler draws on childhood memories and life experiences to inform paintings that meld his private impressions with cultural touchstones, illuminating elements of universal human consciousness. On view for the first time, the artworks in *Mental States* introduce a lush camouflage pattern that engages Mesler's signature style of bold color and bright figuration, and provides a backdrop for the artist's artfully rendered calligraphic scripts, which here convey idioms, expressions of mental states, and elements of the subconscious. Vibrant in color and pattern, and personal in sentiment, the paintings encourage self-reflection while inspiring imagination and reverie. Following the presentation at LGDR, the seven artworks will be included in a major solo exhibition at the Long Museum in Shanghai.

The distinctive large-scale canvases, all dated 2022, probe the psyche through text and image. Evoking responses to external realities, phrases such as *Identity Crisis*, *Well Being*, *Stress Test*, and *Safe Space* are portrayed in Mesler's unique fonts and characterized by honey-colored drips, unfurling ribbons, leopard prints, and enveloping flame—all emblazoned across undulating camouflage. The pattern acts as a visual representation of mental state as place, a metaphysical creation that forms the sites for his chosen expressions. However, Mesler's camouflage serves as both stage and curtain, at once revealing and concealing rhetorical admissions like *Wet Dream*, *Freudian Slip*, and *Me, Myself, and I*, which often remain private and disguised.

With this series, camouflage joins Mesler's signature banana leaves and aqueous pool patterns as a transportive setting, moving both artist and viewer into alternative realms. As the artist has described, a stillness and quiet, simultaneously suppressive and expansive, can be found in dense jungle interiors and underwater—environments that focus the mind by muffling the stimuli of contemporary life. The artist has stated his use of camouflage was inspired, in part, by Andy Warhol's militaristically minded camouflage works of the 1980s, emphasizing Mesler's connection to the legacy of American Pop and his place in a lineage of artists including Ed Ruscha and Christopher Wool. Invigorating fresh inspirations and broadening his visual lexicon, *Mental States* continues the artist's wry, vulnerable examination of the place where personal and popular iconography convene.

### **About the Artist**

Born in 1974 in Los Angeles, Mesler received his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute in 1999. His work has been the subject of exhibitions at LGDR, Palm Beach and London (2022); Lévy Gorvy, Hong Kong (2021); David Kordansky Gallery, Los Angeles (2021); Harper's Books, New York (2020); and Simon Lee, London (2018). The artist will have a forthcoming solo survey at the Long Museum, Shanghai. He lives and works in East Hampton, New York.

### **About LGDR**

Founded by Dominique Lévy, Brett Gorvy, Amalia Dayan, and Jeanne Greenberg Rohatyn, LGDR is a collaborative international art venture that brings expertise and vision to its disciplines. LGDR represents and partners with artists and estates—realizing seminal projects and furthering legacies. From placing primary and secondary works of the highest quality and advising clients on the development of their collections, to harnessing its institutional relationships and presenting a curated program with scholarly publications, LGDR puts artistic voices first. In forming LGDR, the four partners merge their respective specialties across 20th- and 21st-century art; their individual reputations as leaders and tastemakers; and their separate histories as principals of galleries with



Joel Mesler

exemplary exhibition programs. Both international and local in practice and perspective, LGDR has unique spaces and unmatched market knowledge in New York, London, Paris, and Hong Kong in addition to off-site presentations and satellite teams around the world.

**Press Contacts**

Sue Xu, LGDR, [sue@LGDR.com](mailto:sue@LGDR.com)

Yang Fan, P&J Arts, [fan.yang@poejay.com](mailto:fan.yang@poejay.com)