

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Eric Zener
STATES OF BEING
October 9 – November 1, 2025



Gallery Henoch is pleased to present *States of Being*, a solo show by **Eric Zener**. The exhibition will run from October 9th to November 1st, 2025. A public reception will be held for the artist Thursday, October 9th, from 6 – 8 PM.

Living and working in the Bay Area, Eric Zener (b. 1966, Astoria, OR) sources his inspiration from the surrounding natural landscape. Best known for his swimmers and divers, Zener has been engaged in a quest to observe and understand the inner experience of humans. In *Basking in the Blue* a lone figure tranquilly swims, becoming an embodiment of freedom, joy, and peace of mind. In other more dynamic paintings like *Turbulent* a man plunges into the deep blue surf, surrounded by plumes of white bubbles in search of revelation.

While his earlier pieces convey encounters between individuals and water in the form of psychological narrative, his subsequent paintings often focus on the water itself, most specifically the ocean. Each new painting depicts the water in various states of agitation. Some, like *Repose* offer a peaceful facet to the ocean. He paints small waves and ripples, conveying a body of water at rest. Yet, in *Oceanscape* and *Shifting Tides* we can see an evolution towards restlessness. Crests of foamy white form on the horizon, a prelude to a stormy sea. Finally, in Zener's impressive diptych *Surging II* the storm rages in full force.

In Zener's view, through consciously observing the natural movement of water we may arrive at wisdom. "The ocean, in all its moods, becomes a visual language for transformation. Just as the sea can shift from still to surging without warning, so too we can move between hope and grief, love and fear. These works invite reflection on the ever-changing tides within us: how emotions rise, crash, and eventually settle again. In this, there is beauty, vulnerability, and resilience."

The conception of the ocean as expressive of internal life extends to Zener's choices regarding pigment. "By removing color and focusing solely on a monochromatic palette, I aim to heighten the emotional contrast inherent in these scenes. The stark duality underscores the intensity of our inner worlds: the moments when we feel

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overtaken by stormy emotion and those rare, quiet stretches of calm. Black and white strips away emotion, allowing the viewer to engage more directly with form, movement, and the emotional weight of each piece."

Zener's work has been shown in the United States and internationally since 1988. He has had numerous solo exhibitions and been represented in many group shows at Gallery Henoch in New York City. His work has been acquired by a variety of personal, corporate, and public collectors.

Gallery Henoch, 555 West 25th St. (between 10th and 11th Ave). Subway: C or E to 23rd St. Hours: Tuesday - Saturday, 10:30 am - 6:00 pm or by appointment. Free and open to the public. Contact the gallery at 1.917.305.0003 or info@galleryhenoch.com for additional information.