

PRESS RELEASE:
19 January 2026, London

Muscle Memory
Artists: Dylan Doe | Curated by Ning Yu
12 February - 27 March 2026
Private View: Thursday 12 February 2026 6-8pm
Mandy Zhang Art | 16 Seymour Place, London, W1H 7NG



Image: Left: Dylan Doe, *Extrusion (Hair no.2)*, Oil on canvas, 60 x 80cm, 2025
Right: Dylan Doe, *The Conversation (Armatures)*, Oil on canvas, 60 x 80cm, 2026

Mandy Zhang Art is pleased to present ***Muscle Memory***, a solo exhibition by **Dylan Doe**, curated by **Ning Yu**. Taking its cue from a small but telling “glitch”—a double-tap performed on a sketchpad page as though it were a touchscreen—the exhibition traces how digital behaviours migrate into the body, becoming reflex, habit, and involuntary choreography.

“As we shall see, the weird is that which does not belong. The weird brings to the familiar something which ordinarily lies beyond it.”

— Mark Fisher, *The Weird and the Eerie*

From this ghost gesture, *Muscle Memory* unfolds as a meditation on quiet trans-human integration: not the spectacle of implants or speculative prosthetics, but the subtle rewiring of attention through repetition. Doe’s paintings hover between fragmented portraiture and still life. Hands, hair, eyes, and lips—primary sites of sensation and contact—appear as anonymous components assembled into loose montages. These bodily fragments suggest presence without

resolving into a whole, merging with imagined industrial apparatus that feels at once recognisable and faintly estranged within diorama-like settings.

Across the works, the hand becomes unstable as an emblem of craft and deliberate action. It is overtaken by the jittering finger, multiplied and re-tasked into compulsive, performative gestures — rapid swipes and partial touches that imply a drift into restless autopilot. The eye carries a quieter tension: often a single gaze looks past rather than back, withholding exchange and echoing mediated worlds where looking rarely implies encounter. Hair threads through scenes as if drawn from a machine, a veil-like trace between organic intimacy and engineered drift.

Doe's process begins in unconscious drawing sessions — rapid marks that operate as discovery and recall rather than premeditated planning. Painted layers accumulate on raw canvas through graduated priming and transparency; the blurred line of the initial sketch remains visible in places as a residue of making. In *Muscle Memory*, intuition is both method and question: an attempted escape from controlled meaning in a time of cold information, and a stumbling block that asks whether spontaneity can ever fully evade embedded response.

EXHIBITION DETAILS

Exhibition: Dylan Doe, *Muscle Memory*

Curator: Ning Yu

Dates: 12 February – 27 March 2026

Private View: Thursday 12 February 2026, 6–8pm

Location: Mandy Zhang Art | 16 Seymour Place, London, W1H 7NG

Hours: Tue–Sat 11am–6pm

Editor's Notes

Muscle Memory

Dylan Doe

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Mandy Zhang Art (www.mandyzhang.art) is a contemporary art gallery in Marylebone, London. Founded in 2022, it represents and collaborates closely with emerging Asian and diasporic artists across painting, sculpture, installation, photography, and new media, presenting solo and group exhibitions rooted in contemporary storytelling and material-led practice for collectors, institutions, and international audiences.

Alongside its exhibition programme, the gallery organises public events—including performances, talks, and panel discussions—and participates in major international art fairs across Europe, Asia, and the United States, supporting sustainable artistic careers and long-term cross-cultural dialogue.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Dylan Doe (b. 1980, London) is a London-based British artist who creates paintings that use the unconscious to reveal his interest in post-humanist themes: how the body evolves in relation to the objects and technologies it produces, the merging of organic and inorganic forms, and speculation on where this entanglement might lead. In 2023, Doe began a new chapter as a painter following a career spanning music, publishing, and design, shaped by collaborations across multiple industries.

Doe studied at the University of Manchester (BA, History), was awarded an AHRC scholarship to pursue an MA in Illustration at Cambridge School of Art (2012–2014), and later completed postgraduate teacher training at Goldsmiths, University of London (PGCE, Department of Design, 2018–2019). Recent exhibitions include *Still Spinning* (Albert Hall Mansions, London, 2024) and *Latent Relics* (Somers Gallery, London, 2025), with additional presentations in 2025 including Make Room LA (USA) and at *The Collector's Residence*, Larry's List (Shanghai).

From 2005–2023, Doe's work across publishing, design, and music included illustration projects for Thames & Hudson; commissions for clients such as BBC, The Fitzwilliam Museum, and CCTV China; print publication in DPI Art Quarter Magazine (Taiwan); and a parallel music practice as a composer and singer-guitarist, releasing work through labels including Sony BMG, Transgressive, LEX Records, and Akoustik Anarkhy.

ABOUT THE CURATOR

Ning Yu is a London-based curator and art advisor with extensive international experience working with leading galleries, institutions, and private collections. Fluent in Mandarin, French, and English, she brings a global perspective to fostering connections between artists, collectors, and cultural organizations. She holds an MA in East Asian Art History from SOAS, University of London. She has held key positions across the art world, including representing Villepin Gallery and the Foundation for Art and Culture in the UK, where she led projects, developed strategic programs, and built partnerships with galleries and curators, and working at Frieze, where she played a central role in delivering international projects and VIP programs across London, New York, Los Angeles, and Seoul.