

Willy Bo Richardson Publishes First Monograph, *Music to Drive To*

SANTA FE, N.M. — Painter Willy Bo Richardson announces the publication of *Music to Drive To*, his first monograph, bringing together more than twenty-seven years of painting in a publication that explores what becomes possible when an artist remains committed to a single visual inquiry long enough for it to evolve from within.

Through more than seventy paintings, essays, and conversations, *Music to Drive To* traces Richardson's sustained investigation of color, perception, repetition, and attention. Rather than documenting a series of stylistic shifts, the book follows a continuous line of inquiry developed over decades.

“My sustained practice of asking a singular question for nearly three decades has culminated in a book. To me, it's a worthwhile reminder to trust in oneself and remain in one place.”

The publication includes a foreword by Stephanie Buhmann, an essay by Katy Crocker, Richardson's autobiographical essay *Dad, Why Do You Paint Stripes?*, and an extended conversation with contemporary art dealer Max Protetch. Designed by Joseph Gilbert and edited by Will Palmer, the book balances expansive image spreads with writing that considers painting as both a visual and philosophical practice.

One of the guiding principles behind *Music to Drive To* was to make the book in a way that reflected the values behind the paintings themselves. The collaboration with Gilbert and Palmer grew out of longstanding friendships and painting trades rather than conventional monetary arrangements. Produced independently, the book allowed each decision to be made through direct conversation, experimentation, and practical understanding.

Born and raised in Santa Fe, Richardson earned an MFA in painting from Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. After working in New York as a painting technician at Cooper Union, he returned to Santa Fe in 2007. From 2010 to 2017, he taught painting at the Santa Fe University of Art and Design while continuing to develop his studio practice. His work has been exhibited nationally and is represented in museum, corporate, and private collections.

Music to Drive To will be celebrated with a launch and signing on **September 1, 2026, from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at CLAMP, 247 West 29th Street, Ground Floor, New York City.**

The paperback edition is available **at the Vladem Contemporary, the New Mexico Museum of Art, select bookstores, and online.**

More information, ordering, preview pages, and press materials:

www.willyborichardson.com/book

Media Contact

Willy Bo Richardson