

If I were taller Aaron Perkins

29 August - 4 September, 2022





If I were taller is a work of fiction. Its names, characters, places, and incidents are used fictitiously, regardless of their autobiographical, imaginary, or real world origin. I state this not to disclaim any connection between fiction and reality, but, instead, to confirm it. If I were taller engages fiction within pictorial and textual works to explore a fiction that we encounter every day: the story we each tell ourself about our own self.

The titular short story is set in a typeface of my own design entitled Aalphabet. It contains upper- and lower-case forms of the 26 letters within the English alphabet and a selection of diacritical and punctuation marks. Each character was made using the same process as that which gives form to each figure within the paintings.

— Aaron Perkins

You are John or Julius or Leonid or Al and things are different. You are indisputably tall and maybe even the tallest. But to be tall beyond measure paradoxically requires precise measurement and precisely how tall you are is unclear. Your outline seems to shift and your edge seems to blur such that is not only your height that is in dispute but you.



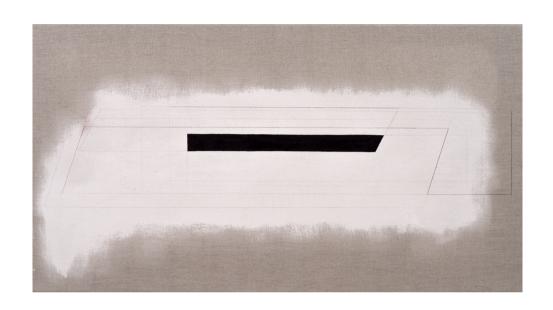
Termini (Times Subtractive), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 152.4 x 60.3 cm So you loke that your beauty is just of a kind that moves but you don't really believe yourself. You know that Robert and John and John and Sultan and even Väinö are each so precisely Robert and John and John and Sultan and Väinö that their height could never be disputed. Without any awareness of doing so you begin to compensate for your uncertain height by claiming a certain beauty. You make yourself ornate and round and endless and decorate your character with diacritics.



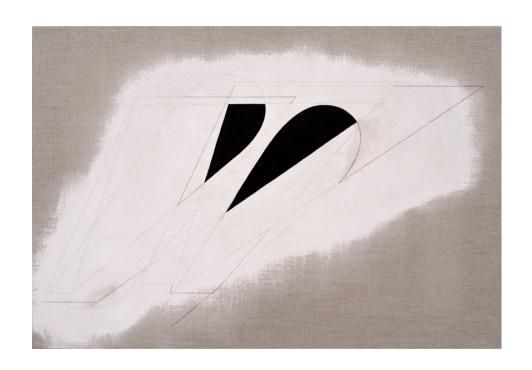
Termini (Futura), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 152.4 x 45.9 cm



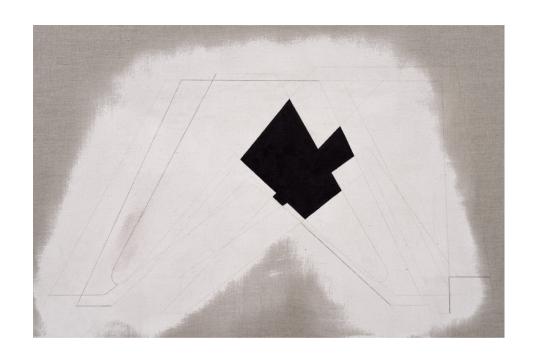
Termini (Baskerville Subtractive), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 152.4 x 77.9 cm You are Jön or Jûlius or Léonid or Æl and things are different.



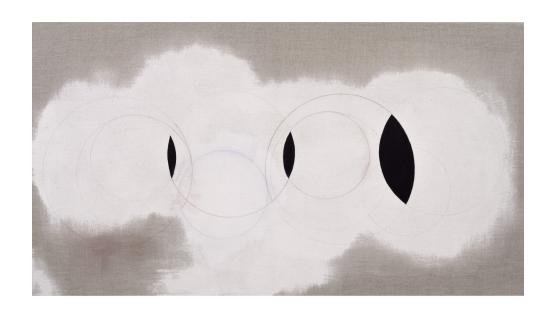
Personae (Baskerville Macron), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 55.3 x 101.1 cm



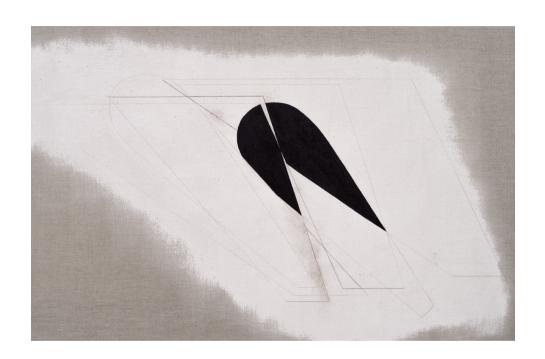
Personae (Baskerville Acute), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 55.3 x 79.8 cm



Personae (Baskerville Circumflex), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 55.3 x 82.6 cm



Personae (Baskerville Umlaut/Diaeresis), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 55.3 x 99.6 cm



Personae (Baskerville Grave), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 55.3 x 88.7 cm

bigger and the window farther away.

on the bed and your legs reach past its end and

keep going until your feet and your sophistication

— you're not sure which — of when the bed was

go out the window. You remember or you dream

Now you are old but you are still tall. You lay down



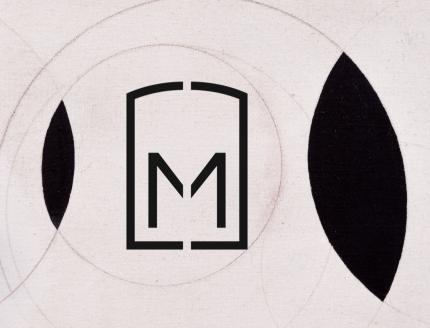
Termini (Helvetica Rounded Subtractive), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 152.4 x 70.2 cm



Termini (Rockwell Subtractive), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 152.4 x 77.8 cm



Termini (Courier New Subtractive), 2022 Gesso, acrylic, pencil and oil on linen 152.4 x 118.2 cm





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Front Cover Image: Digital study for Aalphabet, Termini (Times Subtractive)
Back Cover Image: Personae (Baskerville Umlaut/Diaeresis) detail

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