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179 Canal St, Ste 3B/4D  
New York, NY 10013

Jared Friedman

*Packaged Goods Paper Tigers*

December 2 2023 – January 7 2024

Opening Reception December 2 2023, 6–8pm

Press Release

D. D. D. D. is pleased to present *Packaged Goods Paper Tigers*, the debut solo exhibition of paintings by Brooklyn-based artist Jared Friedman. Through his paintings, Friedman indexes common yet abstracted objects, delving into their construction, purpose, and function through observational painting. By focusing on discarded computer monitor containers, compressed cardboard boxes, void fills, and plastic cookie containers, he challenges the perceived value, or lack thereof, in inanimate objects within the historical context of still-life painting.

Friedman's work navigates the intersection of overstimulation and banality in our world; exploring the contrast between wonderment alongside the apathy of standardized mass production lines. By closely looking and repetitively portraying utilitarian objects like packaging material and refuse, Friedman transforms these disposable plastic inner containers into both monumental and ominous entities. The hyper-focus of these spaces leads to a proto-abstraction, cutting through the monotony and ubiquity of "throw-away" objects when removed from their original context.

Friedman reshapes the significance, function, and urgency of these objects by painting them, transforming unremarkable debris into ziggurat-like forms. The materiality of the paint application elevates the impermanent plains of cardboard and plastic protective packaging into enduring structures resembling concrete or stone. The scale shifts and size variations across this series of works on canvas, suggest otherworldliness, turning recessed spaces, protruding corners, cliff edges, walls, inner chasms, and antechambers into expansive architectural landscapes. These seemingly ephemeral items transcend their disposable nature, temples of cardboard that, despite their insubstantiality, stand as enduring monuments of our time.

## Artist Biography

Jared Friedman (b. 1988 New York, NY) lives and works in Brooklyn. Through closely observed paintings and drawings of inanimate objects, Friedman confronts the ambiguity between admiration and apathy in overlooked spaces. By treating these inanimate spaces as architectural landscapes, he asks us to forgo tangible connections to the sacred, questioning our own sentimentality. His work has been presented in exhibitions at Noguchi Museum, New York (2023); NYCxDESIGN, New York (2023); Brooklyn Museum, New York (2013); and Hunter College, New York (2023). Friedman received his MFA from CUNY Hunter College in May 2023. His works are concurrently on view in a group exhibition, *Currents*, at Morris Adjmi Architects, New York through December 22, 2023.

For more information, please e-mail [dante@dddd.pictures](mailto:dante@dddd.pictures)