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## MATHIEU MERCIER SPARKLES AT THE OLD POST OFFICE



Just in time for Frieze week, artist Mathieu Mercier makes his sparkling New York City debut, conveniently at the former post office at 34th and 8th ave. Opening to the public on Wednesday are Mercier's gorgeous "diamant" paintings- abstractions that still seem to sparkle.

**New York, NY – April 28, 2015** – Denis Gardarin Gallery is pleased to announce its second solo exhibition with French conceptual artist Mathieu Mercier. Gardarin will present Mercier's iconic *diamant* series of seven new paintings that have never before been exhibited. Building on the Gallery's practice of mounting migrating programs in non-traditional venues, this exhibition will explore Mercier's work within the context of the James A. Farley Post Office in New York City. Each of the seven works will be shown in consecutive rooms on the fourth floor of the historic landmark known today as Skylight at Moynihan Station and future home of Fashion Week. *Mathieu Mercier: diamants 2015* will be on view from May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The works are true to their title: *diamant*. Each piece looks like a diamond yet simultaneously functions as an abstract painting. As abstraction is shaped into a representation of pure value the paintings become a sophisticated visual pun. At a time when the international art world descends on NYC for the spring auction season and the Frieze Art Fair, the *diamant* series can be viewed as a self-reflexive comment on the art market itself – art objects, like precious gems, are converted into valuable assets through speculation.

Just as the Diamants look like diamonds yet function as abstract paintings, Skylight at Moynihan Station exists within the historic post office and future railway station, but will function as an art space. With this project, diamonds transcend their usual role of representing exclusivity. While these precious gems are unattainable and inaccessible to most, Denis Gardarin Gallery's exhibition enables Diamants to create access: they allow visitors to enter parts of a National Historic Landmark normally closed to the public. Playing the role of "diamonds in the rough," Mercier's works also have a restorative function: their beauty harkens back to the original architectural grandeur and glory of the historic James A. Farley Post Office building.

*Mathieu Mercier: diamants 2015* will be open to the public May 13<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to 6 PM. A special VIP and press reception will take place on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 5PM to 8PM.