

# OSMOS

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## Richard Bell

April 20, 2023

On view until June 25, 2023  
Thursday, Friday, & Saturday (& by appointment)

Richard Bell (b. 1953) uses his art as a political vehicle to challenge the Western and white construct of the art world in provocative ways. Growing out of a generation of Aboriginal activists, he uses his work to advocate for the emancipation of all First Nations communities. Inherently intertwined with activism, his work calls into question the injustices against the indigenous people of Australia. Bell has notably worked with figures such as Emory Douglas, artist and graphic designer for the Black Panther Party.

Twenty years after his essay, *Bell's Theorem: Aboriginal Art—It's a White Thing*, Bell has been working on a series of paintings to exhibit with OSMOS.

One of the all-white impressionist statement paintings, *WHITE LIES MATTER* (2023) is both an indictment against legacies of Western colonization—specifically, the expropriation of land from Aboriginal communities by the British—and solidarity with global struggles for social justice, in particular with the Black Panthers and Black Lives Matter movements.

For the first time in North America, OSMOS exhibited Richard Bell's newest statement and protest paintings alongside an early photo and text piece. Following recent major exhibitions at documenta fifteen in Kassel, at the Van Abbemuseum in Eindhoven, and Castello di Rivoli in Turin, Italy, Richard Bell mounted solo exhibitions with OSMOS in Chicago at EXPO (April 13-16). Additionally, this May Richard Bell's *EMBASSY* (2013-ongoing), will be on view at Tate Modern, London.