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ART

JD Malat Gallery's new Ed Moses exhibition brings a touch of California heat to London's Mayfair

By [Thomas Barrie](#)
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Ed Moses is closely associated with the sun-drenched environs of Southern California, where he was once central to the burgeoning contemporary art scene of the 1960s. Now, a new show at JD Malat Gallery recasts his work in the capital



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It’s in the vastly different context of wintery, locked-down London – far from the balmy haze of SoCal – that a new exhibition of Moses’ work, called *Whiplines, Waterfalls And Worms*, has just opened at JD Malat Gallery in Mayfair. In a new behind-the-scenes video highlighting Moses’ work and the upcoming exhibition, gallery owner Jean-David Malat explains how the exhibition came about: Malat went to a Jeff Koons exhibition in New York, where a friend introduced him to Andy Moses, Ed’s son. The two went for dinner after the show, got talking and Malat ended up representing Andy in the UK. Last summer, he had his first UK exhibition at JD Malat Gallery. (Like his father, Andy Moses spent time in New York but returned to LA to work in 2000.) On a subsequent visit to LA, Malat was introduced to Ed Moses’ work by his son and it was a natural next step to show the elder Moses’ work at JD Malat Gallery.

A self-described “mutator” whose style constantly evolved and co-opted new influences, Moses’ work is difficult to describe in anything other than broad terms, but one constant was that he had an enduring fascination with “mark-making” and the physical process of painting. In the works shown at JD Malat Gallery, chaotic swirls and stains of different colours meld on large canvases which, despite their obvious abstraction, can’t help but spur comparisons to waterfalls or other natural phenomena.

Engaging and absorbing, Moses’ work will make for a beautifully escapist experience for viewers. And, given the current situation and lockdown rules, would-be visitors to the gallery don’t need to leave home to see the art; while gallery manager Annie Pereira explains in the behind-the-scenes video that Moses’ canvases (like most traditional artistic media) have the greatest impact in person, the entire exhibition is available in virtual form online.

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