

JACK HANLEY GALLERY

Heidi Hahn

The Future is Elsewhere (If it Breaks Your Heart)

12 October – 12 November, 2017

Opening reception

Thursday, 12 October, 6-8pm

Jack Hanley is excited to present 'The Future is Elsewhere (If it Breaks Your Heart)', Heidi Hahn's second solo exhibition with the gallery. For this presentation, Hahn continues to investigate the traditional concerns of figurative painting while creating environments of psychological landscapes of the female mind and body. Her compositions and the materiality of paint, with its rich and translucent multiple layers, enhance the depth of the females' interior lives presented in these finely crafted narratives.

The women displayed in this new series are in transit, active or passive, walking or waiting, reading or looking at their phone, on the verge of new destinations or chapters. The characters are always portrayed in profile, conjuring up some hieroglyphic stance and causing the narrative to lapse in time. It is unclear where they are coming from, where they are going, what they are waiting for, what caused them to be where they are. These women are almost without history, their future uncertain and unconcerned. The portraiture of often hidden faces, and if visible, simplified into obfuscating masks, elucidates these women's anonymity. Their bodies, sinuous and fluid, assimilate to the flatness of their backgrounds and the conventions of their environments. Through distinctive and delimitative lines shaping them, they are entirely aware of the part they have had to play in society yet unconcerned with judgements and expectations.

Introspective and with an unadorned social awareness, Heidi Hahn portrays the complexities of femininity. The use and continuation of the traditional medium of painting and the interplay of formally traditional and contemporary elements contextualize topical concerns and engage these in an art historical context. They paint a new portrait of women who don't have to pose for the picture.

Heidi Hahn, (b.1982, Los Angeles) lives and works in Brooklyn. Hahn had solo exhibitions including Bent Idle at Jack Hanley Gallery and Shadows from Other Places at Premier Regard in Paris. The artist has participated in various group exhibitions including Engender at Kohn Gallery, Los Angeles, The Edge of Doom at H I L D E, Los Angeles, Human Condition at John Wolf, Los Angeles, On Painting at Kent Fine Art, New York, Friend of the Devil at Jack Hanley Gallery, Immediate Female at Judith Charles Gallery.

For more information please contact Silke at silke@jackhanley.com

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