ALMINE RECH

Un Hiver à Paris

Feb 6 — 27, 2021 | Paris, Turenne (Front Space)

Due to new restrictions in relation to the further spread of Covid-19 in Switzerland, the pop-up exhibition 'Un Hiver à Gstaad' will be presented in Paris at the gallery's front space, 64 rue de Turenne.

Almine Rech is delighted to present 'Un Hiver à Gstaad Paris', a group exhibition focused on the act of painting in the 21st century.

'Un Hiver à Gstaad Paris' brings together 22 artists from diverse generations and geographies who demonstrate varying practices within painting. The presented works all embody the notion that this medium at the beginning of the 21st century continues to be both vital and enduring. It is also a blossoming field of practice and research, catalyzed through engaging new ideologies, new contributors and new forms.

Participating artists are:

John M Armleder
Agustín Cardenás
Ha Chong-Hyun
Genieve Figgis
Günther Förg
Madelynn Green
Marcus Jansen
Aaron Johnson
Setsuko Klossowska de Rola
Otis Kwame Quaicoe
Alexandre Lenoir
Cesar Piette
Kenny Scharf
Vaughn Spann
Vivian Springford
Phyllis Stephens
Genesis Tramaine
Tursic & Mille
De Wain Valentine
Tom Wesselmann
Chloe Wise

Madelynn Green utilizes an imaginative balance between abstraction and representation, often referencing the visual language of film photography through the use of blurred lines and light. Green's recent subjects have included family and social dynamics, primarily those found in nightclubs and crowds as seen in her magnetic painting *Drinks* (2020).

One value of a contemporary portrait is its ability to reinvent the codes of its own genre. Genesis Tramaine is an expressionist devotional painter who creates abstract portraits of men and women who transcend gender, race and social structures.

Otis Kwame Quaicoe offers a new perspective on African culture through the celebrated form of portraiture. Through his bright and luminous portraits of Black men and women, Quaicoe engages with ideas of empowerment, a subject embodied in the postures of his sitters, who appear set against bright monochromatic backgrounds.

Genieve Figgis expertly defines her own contemporary language by subverting and reinterpreting classical portraiture through paintings rich in color, texture and humor. With her portrait *Grace* (2020), depicting the iconic actress Grace Kelly, Figgis strikes a balance between abstraction and figuration, the ancient and contemporary.

Marcus Jansen's 'Faceless' portrait series was first painted in 2012 and he continues developing the series today. His characters investigate the secrecy of faceless men in suits, exploring anonymity, power and elitism.

French artist César Piette's work questions the materiality of the image and the nature of painting. His use of traditional techniques—monochromatic layers, perspective, light, composition and bold use of shadow—connects him to the history of figurative painting. Painted with an airbrush, his images, such as *Sunset Landscape*, also include three-dimensional effects.

Kenny Scharf's new paintings recall the artist's painterly vocabulary of stylized aliens in colorful patterns he developed in the 1980s, during which time he became known, together with his close friends Jean-Michel Basquiat and Keith Haring, as one of the central artists involved in what became described as Street Art.

Vaughn Spann has created three powerful new paintings inspired by his personal experiences. He explains them as follows: "I was stopped and frisked for the first time while I was an undergrad student...I was walking home from studying at a friend's house. Cops pulled me over. Four other cop cars [came] by. They put me against a gate, and my hands are up, split. That same gesture echoes the X. And, for me, that's such a symbolic form, and so powerful to this contemporary moment, that I formally needed to figure out the components of that."

Foregrounding an interest in the history of portraiture, Chloe Wise examines the multiple channels that lead to the construction of a contemporary self, often through faces of those who are most familiar to her. With her two intimate portraits *Inès in the daytime* and *Inès in the evening,* both completed at the end of 2020, Wise masterly celebrates the heroes of everyday life.