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CHASE OF GRACE

Glen Fogel, Virginia Nimarkoh, Julia Pfeiffer, James Richards and Mela Yerka

As part of the ongoing program of the gallery, Maria Stenfors will from time to time present an exhibition where she invites a gallery artist to curate and select a group show, allowing an insight into the artist's influences and indulgences in that moment in time. By this, it links artists and practices that otherwise are unlikely to be shown together and occasionally appear at odds with one another. This enables the selected artist to express and reveal an aspect of their practice that would not necessarily be visible through their artistic production.

We are proud to begin the series with Martin Gustavsson, whose last solo exhibition at the gallery was in October 2010, titled 'In No Particular Order', where he presented us with over 70 paintings, both abstract and figurative, installed in a grid-like fashion, with the order selected at random. During the exhibition, a performance was also staged where half of the exhibition was taken down and rehung by Martin Gustavsson and Ian White whilst, at random, presenting each other with a series of questions and answers.

The exhibition 'Chase of Grace' takes the construction of an image as its starting point. What does it mean to have an emotional response to formal qualities of light, colour and shadow on a two-dimensional surface? The production of pictorial material, be it a window into a fantasy, documentation or just a field of colour, all seem to have the ability to perform an identity, and through its context take the risk of constantly undermining and reinforcing itself.

The process of identification inherent in the act of looking and the subsequent performing of one's identity in relation to the image is a core impetus in putting this show together.

The construction of an identity is not so much how a person perceives themselves, but rather more how they are perceived by others. This in turn is further distorted when interpretations are retold, shifting the original intent through omission and exaggeration. The fragility of stories told and untold, the seeming futility of them and the surprising strength with which they resist normative readings can be seen as a theme linking the works.

Glen Fogel

Studied at the Milton Avery School of Art at Bard College in 2010. He has had recent solo exhibitions at Callicoon Fine Arts, The Kitchen and Momenta Art, New York.

Virginia Nimarkoh

Studied at Goldsmiths University, London. Living and working in London, her work has been shown at places such as the Museum of Contemporary Art, Detroit; Threadwaxing Space, New York and ICA, London.

Julia Pfeiffer

Is a Berlin based artist that is also represented by Maria Stenfors. Her last solo exhibition at the gallery, 'Hope Creeping Out The Jar', was in early 2011.

James Richards

Based in London, Richards is represented by Rodeo Gallery, Istanbul. Recent notable exhibitions include Chisenhale Gallery, London; 'Art Now' with Clunie Reid, Tate Britain and 'Call and Bluff', Tramway, Glasgow.

Mela Yerka

Graduated in 2011 from Central St Martins, London, having previously studied at the Academy of Fine Arts, Warsaw. Polish born, she now lives and works in London.

Also featured in the show will be two historical prints, kindly lent to the gallery by Andrew Edmunds, of Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby, known as the 'Ladies of Llangollen', whose lifestyle in the late 18th century became a subject of fascination with their contemporaries.

Exhibition Dates: 13th January – 18th February, 2012

Opening Hours: Tue – Fri 11am – 6pm, Sat 11am – 3pm

Private View: Thurs 12th Jan 6-8pm