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PERSIAN ROSE CHARTREUSE MUSE VANCOUVER GREY

Curated by Mina Totino

Tomma Abts
Aaron Carter
Raoul De Keyser
Bernard Frize
Mary Heilmann
Elizabeth McIntosh
Monique Mouton
Silke Otto-Knapp
Laura Owens
Rachelle Sawatsky

This exhibition connects the dots of influence that have contributed to a complex and refreshing development in painting and its fraught history. It is exciting to consider how the range of local painting practice has such strong links to artists outside of the city and, by including some of these artists, that there is a visual and thoughtful discussion with painting from elsewhere. It also acknowledges the influences of artists who have given back to painting ways of making the medium a valued practice now.

Raoul De Keyser, Mary Heilmann and Bernard Frize have removed the quotation marks that held painting in a confining endgame. Their work embraces doubt, produces questions rather than conclusions. They experiment with painting's history and theories. There is a sensual and performative aspect to the work, as well as a cavalier and ironic humour that is included in the criticality embedded in their moments of painting.

Laura Owens, Elizabeth McIntosh, Silke Otto-Knapp, Tomma Abts, Monique Mouton, Rachelle Sawatsky and Aaron Carter are investing in painting's specificity and join in the experiments with Heilmann, Frize and De Keyser in this revitalized practice.

What these artists share is a confidence that painting on its own terms, has the depth of subject and history to add to the important discussions of contemporary art-in-general. It has been a pleasure to curate this body of work from these artists who interrogate painting for more.