

Oh To Be a Painting 2

Curated by Katelyn Ledford

October 31 - December 16, 2023

Merrick Adams | Paige Beeber | Loren Erdrich | Todd Kelly | Joseph Parra | Christian Ruiz Berman
David Scanavino | Christine Tien Wang | Shuai Yang | Mathew Zefeldt | Caroline Zurmely

Abigail Ogilvy Gallery is pleased to present *Oh To Be a Painting 2*, a sophomore group exhibition curated by gallery artist Katelyn Ledford. The exhibition acts as part two to an online show Ledford curated with the gallery in 2020, [Oh To Be a Painting](#), which – in the midst of a pandemic – explored what it means to look at paintings online, how painting’s 2D and 3D qualities are translated from physical to virtual space, and what might be lost in translation. Three years later, Ledford revisits those themes in a physical space, allowing viewers to engage in-person with the palpable materiality of paintings to expand and challenge their understanding of the relationship between painting as a two-dimensional image and three-dimensional, sculptural object.

Oh To Be a Painting 2 includes works by Merrick Adams, Paige Beeber, David Scanavino, Loren Erdrich, Todd Kelly, Joseph Parra, Christian Ruiz-Berman, Christine Wang, Shuai Yang, Mathew Zefeldt, and Caroline Zurmely. With a completely new roster of artists for its second edition, the group exhibition presents works which teeter between image and sculpture, as well as those which consider the ultra-flat possibilities of painting.

Curator Katelyn Ledford says,

“Is painting an image or object? Due to its two-dimensional nature and exacerbated by the ease of image sharing, painting has long been dismissed as only an image, failing to consider it in the round. Conversely, painting is largely defined by its 2D quality, so what does it mean when a painting extends beyond its flatness? Is it now sculpture? Bringing together artists of all painterly qualities, we will blend these two competing ideas so that viewers have to consider this group of paintings on equal footing. All must be viewed within the context of image and object, flat and sculptural.

So, is painting an image or object? I surely hope neither and both. Just enjoy the pleasure of looking at a painting, seeing its edges, dissecting its layers, and studying its imagery. Leave the baggage of theory and pigeon-holing ideas behind.”

Oh To Be a Painting 2 is part of Abigail Ogilvy Gallery’s Los Angeles program, which will primarily focus on exhibitions presented by guest curators, with a strong focus on showcasing a range of aesthetic perspectives and backgrounds within the Los Angeles area and the greater art market. *Oh To Be a Painting 2* marks Ledford’s curatorial debut in a physical space.

Merrick Adams received his MFA from Rhode Island School of Design in 2020 and holds a bachelors degree in Fine Art, with a concentration in Printmaking, from East Carolina University. Solo exhibitions include Scott Miller Projects in Birmingham, Alabama. Adams has participated in group exhibitions at The Pit, Los Angeles, CA; Kutlesa Gallery, Arth, Switzerland; Tyler Parks Presents, Los Angeles, CA; TURN Gallery, New York, NY; Blue Door Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; My Pet Ram Gallery, Santa Barbara, CA; and among others. He currently lives and works in Los Angeles, CA.

Paige Beeber is best known for kaleidoscopic abstract paintings that could be mistaken for textiles. Beeber incorporates a wide range of materials—oil, spray, acrylic paints, inks, dyes, and found objects—into her large-scale, intensely detailed works. Beeber received a BFA from Alfred University in 2015. She has since been noted for her distinctive approach to mark-making, incorporating abstract and geometric patterns that give her paintings the appearance of needlework, forging a link to past generations of artisans in her family’s history. Beeber’s prominent use of zesty colors and dynamic mix of techniques create moments of harmony and discord that reflect the rhythm of contemporary life.

Loren Erdrich (b. 1978) lives and works in New York City where she is currently represented by SHRINE. Her undergraduate degrees include a BA, magna cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, PA in 2000, and a BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in Chicago, IL in 2005. In 2007 she received her MFA from the Burren College of Art at

the National University of Ireland, Galway. Erdrich has participated in many exhibitions including Harper's (East Hampton, NY); Spring Break Art Show (New York, NY); Nicodim Gallery (Los Angeles, CA); Superzoom (Miami, FL); Guts Gallery (London, UK) and Herrero Tejada (Madrid, SP). In 2023 Erdrich presented a solo exhibition at SHRINE (New York, NY) following a two-person presentation with the gallery at The Armory Show in 2022. Erdrich has also been awarded residencies at Yaddo; Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency; Jentel Foundation; Santa Fe Art Institute; Sculpture Space; Vermont Studio Center; and Art Farm Nebraska. Her work has been written about in publications such as Cultured; FAD; ArtMaze; Maake; the Chicago Tribune and Il Giornale Dell'Arte. She frequently collaborates with the poet Sierra Nelson, coauthoring the award winning I Take Back the Sponge Cake (published by Rose Metal Press, 2012) and Isolation (limited edition artist book, 2020), and in 2021 she collaborated with the fashion designer Marc Jacobs to incorporate her paintings into their Resort line.

Originally from Michigan, **Todd Kelly** lives and works in New York. He began his career in architecture, an influence that still resonates in his work. Kelly earned an MFA at the School of Visual Arts and a B.A. at Anderson University, IN. Recent exhibitions include Transmitter Gallery, Brooklyn; LVL3, Chicago; Tiger Strikes Asteroid, Philadelphia; and the New Bedford Art Museum, MA; and he has been included in exhibitions in London, UK; Galway, Ireland; New York, NY; Spokane, WA; Minneapolis, MN; Albuquerque, NM; and Madison, WI. His work has been featured as an Artforum Critic's Pick, and reviewed in the London Times, the London Paper, Art F City, LVL3, Bmore Art, The New Criterion, Gorky's Granddaughter, and Beard and Brush, among others.

Joseph Parra (b. 1990; West Palm Beach, FL) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He received an MFA from Hunter College, New York, NY (2022); a BFA from Maryland Institute College of Art, Baltimore, MD (2012); and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Madison, ME (2014). He has participated in several artist residencies including: Offshore Residency, Penobscot Bay, ME; Byrdcliffe Artist in Residence Program, Woodstock, NY; the Vermont Studio Center, Johnson, VT; Second State Press, Philadelphia, PA; the International School of Painting, Drawing, and Sculpture, Umbria, Italy; and the Atelier Artist in Residence Program, New York, NY.

Born in Mexico City in 1982, artist **Christian Ruiz Berman** has lived in 11 U.S. states and four countries. He has a masters degrees in architecture and painting from Rhode Island School of Design, and a BA in international relations from Duke University. Christian has worked in urban forestry, environmental conservation, public art, and education. He has been a professor of painting at several US Universities and colleges. Spanning various mediums, including painting, poetry, film, and sculpture, Berman's practice revolves around ideas of tentacularity, mysticism, migration, adaptation, archeology, and finding joy and magic in complex times. Christian is engaged in the pursuit of bridging scientific and spiritual insights, as well as finding greater communion and compassion through play. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in both solo and group exhibitions, with a museum show at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art in 2022. He has upcoming solo shows at Nicodim Los Angeles in January of 2024 and Mindy Solomon Gallery in Miami in September of 2024.

David Scanavino (b. 1978, Denver, CO) lives and works in New York City. A graduate of RISD (BFA Painting, 2001) and the Yale University School of the Arts (MFA Painting, 2003), Scanavino has shown widely in the past 10 years in New York and across the country. He has had two recent solo museum exhibitions: Imperial Texture at the Aldrich Museum of Contemporary Art, Ridgefield, CT and Candy Crush at the Pulitzer Foundation of Art in St. Louis, MO. He has had several solo gallery exhibitions with Klaus von Nichtssagend Gallery in New York, as well as solo and group exhibitions at Michael Benevento, Los Angeles; Marlborough Gallery Broome Street, New York; Team Gallery, New York; Bureau Gallery, New York; Marianne Boesky, New York; and Derek Eller Gallery, New York. His work has been reviewed in Art in America, ArtReview, The New York Times and the New York Observer, and in numerous other publications.

Christine Tien Wang (b. 1985 Washington D.C) received her BFA from The Cooper Union and her MFA in painting from UCLA. Wang completed residencies at the Jamaica Center for Arts and Learning, VCUQatar, Chashama North, and Skowhegan. Wang's solo exhibition Coronavirus Memes was on view at Galerie Nagel Draxler in Cologne. Selected group exhibition venues include Frans Hals Museum, Rachel Uffner, Magenta Plains, and The Prince Street Gallery. Wang is in the collection of Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Groeninghe Art Collection in Belgium. Wang is represented by Ever Gold [Projects] in San Francisco, Night Gallery in Los Angeles and Galerie Nagel Draxler in Cologne and Berlin. Wang is currently Assistant Professor of Painting and Drawing at California College of Art and lives and works in San Francisco.

Shuai Yang (b.1998 Beijing, China) is an interdisciplinary artist who works with painting, printmaking, collage, and installation to investigate the subjects of the female body, spirituality, and mortality. She embeds concepts of transformation, liminality, repetition, and multiplicity; uses materials that evoke visceral feelings, including paper and fabrics; and employs cutting, burning, incising, stitching, (un)folding, and layering in the physical procedures.

Yang is a recipient of the Morty Frank Travel Fellowship and Donald C. Kelley Travel Award. Her work has been shown in New York, Boston, and Beijing. She received her MFA in Visual Arts from Columbia University School of The Arts and a BFA in printmaking from Massachusetts College of Art.

Mathew Zefeldt (b. 1987, California) is Associate Professor of Painting and Drawing at the University of Minnesota. He received his MFA in studio art from UC Davis in 2011 and received his BA in Art at UC Santa Cruz in 2009. He has had solo exhibitions at The Hole, NY; Celaya Brothers, Mexico City; Hair + Nails, Minneapolis; Big Pictures, Los Angeles; 5-50 Gallery, Long Island City; The Soap Factory, Minneapolis; Circuit 12, Dallas; Verge Center for the Arts, Sacramento; Minneapolis Institute of Art, Minneapolis; Hap Gallery, Portland; and Santa Monica Museum of Art, Santa Monica. He has exhibited in group exhibitions at Lisa Cooley, NY; The Hole, Los Angeles; Better Go South, Berlin; Night Club, Minneapolis; MOHS Exhibit, Copenhagen; Galerie Fran Reus, Palma de Mallorca; Dreamsong, Minneapolis; Joshua Liner Gallery, NY; Left Field, San Luis Obispo; The Minnesota Museum of American Art, Saint Paul; Akron Art Museum, Ohio; Currier Art Museum, New Hampshire, and The Oklahoma Contemporary, Oklahoma City. In 2022, Zefeldt was an international resident at the Cob x Plop Residency in London, UK.

Caroline Zurmely (b. 1994) graduated with a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2017. Since then her work has been shown in exhibitions in both the United States and the UK. Her work has been published in Art Maze magazine, Emergent Magazine, It's Nice That and New American Painting.

About the Curator

Katelyn Ledford is an artist living and working in Jersey City, New Jersey, but born and bred in the American South. She received her MFA in Painting at the Rhode Island School of Design in 2019. She has been featured in exhibitions internationally with solo exhibitions at M+B in Los Angeles in 2023, Long Story Short Gallery in New York City in 2022, Aishonanzuka in Hong Kong in 2021, and DUVE Berlin in Germany in 2021. Select group exhibitions include those at Monya Rowe Gallery, New York, NY; Mindy Solomon Gallery, Miami, FL; Unit London, London, UK; WOAW Gallery, Wan Chai, HK; and Plan X Art Gallery, Milan, IT.

About Abigail Ogilvy Gallery

Abigail Ogilvy Gallery provides a platform for new perspectives and education through independent curation and artist partnerships. Their collaborative approach upends the traditional gallery model and aims to enhance the careers of artists, curators, collectors, and other art world professionals, both emerging and established. With spaces in Boston and LA, AOG provides a link between creative communities on the coasts and expands the reach of artists who have not yet been recognized or shown in these areas. The gallery program primarily features guest curators in order to share diverse perspectives and voices within the Los Angeles area and the greater art market. Owner Abigail Ogilvy Ryan founded the Boston gallery in 2015 and opened the LA location in 2023. AOG is committed to showing a wide range of artistic ideas and media.

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