

Layered: Rachel Gisela Cohen and Elise Thompson



L: "Lobster (Eyedazzler)" by Rachel Gisela Cohen. R: "Hook" by Elise Thompson

Opening **Friday, November 11th from 6-8 PM** at The Yard: Williamsburg

Curated by Hayley Ferber

195 Broadway Floor 4, Brooklyn, NY

Exhibition on view through January 30, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 30, 2022 - *Layered* presents the mixed media works of Rachel Gisela Cohen and Elise Thompson, two artists who create elaborate microcosms that simultaneously conceal and reveal the inner workings of their multidimensional -scapes. Merging positive and negative space through color, texture and shape, Cohen and Thompson push the boundaries of their non-traditional materials.

Cohen's collages of vibrant sequin-encrusted chromatic abstract paintings become an ecosystem of their own where a metamorphosis of various forms takes place. Relying on the unexpected coupling of paint and fabric, she creates a hybrid medium that comments on the coexistence of natural and manufactured environments.

Thompson's sheer, layered surfaces call on the intricacies of transparency through varying degrees of obscured visibility. She utilizes censoring effects to withhold, disguise or outright obstruct and creates perceived or physical voids that disrupt and expose. These works teeter between a need to control and a sense of vulnerability, equally sharing with and depriving the viewer.

Whether deliberate or automatic, the bared layers in these works create a labyrinth of depth, alternatively withholding and divulging, leaving a sense of restriction and longing. The often unlikely pairing of color and textures generate a tension that leads to questioning and contemplation allowing one to get lost among the complexities.

Rachel Gisela Cohen is an artist, educator, and independent curator based in NYC. She has shown her work nationally and internationally, exhibiting at The Spring Break Art Show NYC, Armenia Art Fair, Pierogi Gallery's The Boiler, Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, and Hunter College Art Galleries. She has been awarded fellowships and residencies from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Constance Saltonstall Foundation, Vermont Studio Center, COPE NYC, and the Montclair Art Museum. She received her M.F.A. in Painting and Drawing from Pratt Institute and a B.A. in Art History and Visual Arts from Drew University. Currently, she teaches as an Artist Educator at the Museum of Arts and Design and the School of Visual Arts in New York City. <https://rachelcohenstudio.com/home.html>

Elise Thompson received a BFA from Northern Kentucky University in 2010 and an MFA at Florida State University in 2016. She attended the Boom Gallery Fellowship + Residency in Cincinnati, OH, in 2015 via an FSU Exceptional Opportunities award and received the Mary Ola Reynolds Miller Scholarship in Visual Arts in 2016. Additional residencies include Vermont Studio Center, The Wassaic Artist Residency, The Maple Terrace Artist Residency Program, DNA Artist Residency, Stay Home Gallery + Residency, and ChaNorth Artist Residency. Thompson has been published in *New American Paintings South*, *Friend of the Artist*, *VAST Magazine*, and *Maake Magazine*. Recent exhibitions include The Spartanburg Art Museum (SC), The Wassaic Project (NY), 500x (TX), Paradise Palase (NYC), Laundromat Art Space (FL), Westobou Gallery (GA), and Soft Times Gallery (CA). She lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. <https://www.elisethompson.com/>

Hayley Ferber is a curator, educator and artist living in Brooklyn, New York. Her curatorial projects include collaborations with the New York Artist Equity Association and the New York Artists Circle. As a visiting curator, Hayley has worked with artists from the NARS Foundation, Residency Unlimited and ChaNorth, served as guest juror for the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs and Queens Council on the Arts and guest speaker for the School of Visual Arts, New York Foundation for the Arts and POWArts. Hayley received her MAT in Art & Design Education from the Rhode Island School of Design and BS in Studio Art from New York University. <https://www.hayleyferber.com/>

For more information and to schedule a visit, contact Hayley: hayley.e.ferber@gmail.com or Audra: antecedentprojects@gmail.com .