

# rachel uffner



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Shara Hughes

*Same Space Different Day*

April 30 – June 25, 2017

Opening Reception: Sunday, April 30, 6 – 8 pm

Rachel Uffner Gallery is pleased to present *Same Space Different Day*, an exhibition of new paintings and drawings by Shara Hughes. Spanning both the upstairs and downstairs exhibition spaces, this will be the artist's first solo show with the gallery.

The exhibition consists of a series of abstracted "invented landscape" paintings, presented in the downstairs gallery. Utilizing an analogous organic silhouette as the compositional starting point for each canvas, Hughes employs a new approach in this series, exploring the multitude of ways in which one object or idea may be perceived when expressed within different contexts. Playing with the boundaries between the real and the imagined, Hughes renders her paintings as portals into unique universes that beg for deeper discovery.

Pours of primary colored acrylic melt into pastel, palette knife-streaked enamel, imbuing motion into the waterfall that we peak through. In a reflection on the way in which life today tends to be viewed through camera rather than the eye, a swirling, psychedelic flower field unnaturally brings into the frame both central and peripheral vantage points. The ominous root of a giant tree creeps curvaceously around heavily impastoed leaves, leaving us to wonder if the turquoise shrubs below will be under attack or embrace. Suns and moons perforate each canvas, serving as legend to these mystical, sometimes chaotic, worlds.

In the upstairs gallery, by contrast, hangs a selection of sixteen drawings from a series completed over the past three years. The works on paper, made with crayon, marker, oil, and pastel, are a wholly separate practice from the paintings, created in the artist's intimate home space. Purposefully composed as Hughes' mind is preoccupied with other thought, she allows her subconscious to be at work on the page, enacting shapes and colors that she might not otherwise choose to pair. This sense of freedom becomes mirrored in the larger canvases, which, too, push investigation of the subconscious, both on the part of painter and viewer. A forthcoming monograph of sixty-eight drawings will be published in tandem with this exhibition.

**Shara Hughes** (b. 1981, Atlanta, GA) lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. She graduated from the Rhode Island School of Design, attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, received a Joan Mitchell Fellowship to attend Vermont Studio Center, and attended Anderson Ranch artist residency. Solo exhibitions include Baldwin Gallery, Aspen; Ornis A. Gallery, Amsterdam; Marlborough Chelsea, New York; Museum of Contemporary Art, Atlanta; American Contemporary, New York; Rivington Arms, New York; Museum 52, London; Metroquadro, Rivoli; and Galerie Mikael Anderson, Copenhagen. She has participated in group exhibitions at Jack Hanley Gallery, New York; Romer Young Gallery, San Francisco; Coburn Projects, London; Salon 94, New York; Gredier Contemporary, Zurich; and the High Museum of Art, Atlanta. Hughes has a concurrent solo exhibition on view at Gallery Met at the Metropolitan Opera, New York, and is currently included in the 2017 Whitney Biennial.

Image: Shara Hughes, *It's More Than a Guilty Pleasure*, 2017, oil and acrylic on canvas, 68 x 60 inches, (172.7 x 152.4 cm).

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