



Spoonbill Studio
99 Montrose Ave
Brooklyn, NY 11206

Spoonbill Studio Presents: *Painting Everyday*
A Fall Curatorial Series Curated by Madeleine Mermall
September 9, 2017 - January 16, 2018



Bella Foster, *Untitled*, Courtesy of the Artist



Polly Shindler, *Chair with Painting*, Courtesy of the Artist

Painting Everyday I: Polly Shindler and Bella Foster
September 9 – October 7
Opening reception: Saturday, Sept 9, 6:00-9:00 PM

Painting Everyday is a fall curatorial series presented by Spoonbill Studio under the keen curation of Madeleine Mermall. It is composed of four succinct exhibitions, featuring Polly Shindler, Bella Foster, Kathryn Lynch, Gretchen Scherer, Paul Gagner, and Todd Beinvenu. Using the traditional method of display, the canvas, each artist engages the viewer with images, environments & non-typed communication that return us to the estranged everyday world in which we exist. The result enables a small escape from the normal mental-delve into the uninhabitable spaces of the digital.

It is a natural refocus on ourselves, the bodily, the corporeal means of interaction. Our eyes look for more than just consumption of a screen. They seek the physical spaces we inhabit and the objects encountered there, tangible items that create a space, beyond the 1's and 0's. The exhibition venue itself, Spoonbill Studio, alive and comforting, a treasury of books, the old rug

fraying in the corner, is a revolt against the prevailing gallery model of white walls, large empty volumes, and catatonic front desks—an environment utterly separate from day-to-day reality, and yet one oddly premiumed, prioritized and privileged. *Painting Everyday* encompasses the return to the familiar, and because the familiar has been so absented, the familiar will even seem a bit uncanny.

Painting Everyday possesses a quiver of connotations. It suggests the discipline of painting each and every day, without a time factor. Fifteen minutes fits the bill as much as five hours. No judgment. You can do this if you want to. It's not a practice like lawyer or dentist; it's a habit worthy of pursuit if you can fit it into your schedule. Luv ya, IRL and for real. Do it!

From another direction, the painting of the everyday points to the scarlet begonias in the living room window, in a clay flower pot next to a green bottle and a brown one, with a blue sun shining in. Can we still see the scarlet begonias, the bottles and the blue sun, please? And the yellow sky? Don't hide them in abstract allegories. Not for right now. Let's just see what it looks like around us on a personal, figurative painterly canvas level. How about that? Just for now.

Can we hold off, for one autumn at least, on non-figurative abstraction and the immaterial, intangible digitalization of the world? Let's escape the immaterialization, and seek the sensory, the real, the experiences that occur in tangibility. Because the danger of abstraction, unfortunately, is that it plays into the hands of computers. If computers take over how will we have any fun anymore? It's already bad enough, with half of life-time, or maybe 75%, consumed by screen slavery, and tangled cords, low battery alerts. At night our faces turn blue, now, phones like flashlights under the chin around the campfire.

Painting Everyday is on view from September 9 through January 16

Painting Everyday I: Polly Shindler and Bella Foster, September 9 – October 7

Painting Everyday II: Kathryn Lynch, October 7 – November 4

Painting Everyday III: Gretchen Scherer, November 4 – December 9

Painting Everyday IV: Paul Gagner and Todd Beinvenu, December 12 – January 16

ABOUT BELLA

Bella Foster studied painting at the School of Visual Arts in New York City and currently lives and works in Los Angeles. Her recent exhibitions include CANADA, New York, Venus over Los Angeles, White Columns, NY, South Willard, CA, CANADA's Frieze booth, curated by Katherine Bernhardt, Heiner Contemporary, Washington DC, Salon 94 Gallery, New York, and Art Since the Summer 69 Gallery, New York.

ABOUT POLLY

Polly Shindler received her MFA in Painting from Pratt Institute and attended the Vermont Studio Center. She completed a yearlong curatorial residency at Trestle Projects in Brooklyn in 2015. Polly has shown recently at Ortega y Gasset, New York, Kehler Liddell, New Haven, CT, Artspace, New Haven, CT, Good Works Gallery, New York, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, New York, The Cape Cod Museum of Art, Dennis, MA, David & Schweitzer Company, New York, and The Neuberger Museum, Purchase, NY.

ABOUT KATHRYN

Kathryn Lynch has an MFA from the University of Pennsylvania and has received numerous grants and awards, including residencies at Yaddo, the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation, Skowhegan, and The Vermont Studio Center. Recent exhibitions include Sears-Peyton Gallery, New York, Tayloe Piggott Gallery, Jackson Hole, WY, Senaspace, New York, Shirley Fiterman Center, New York, Sara Nightingale Gallery, Watermill, NY, and Flinn Gallery, Greenwich, CT. Her work is held in public collections of University of California, Berkeley Art Museum, CA, Microsoft, WA, and the Ritz Carlton, NY.

ABOUT GRETCHEN

Gretchen Scherer received a BFA from the University of Illinois at Chicago and graduated with an MFA from Hunter College. She is the recipient of a Graf travel grant to Berlin and has attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture and The Vermont Studio Center Residency. Recent shows include Anna Marra Contemporanea, Rome, ART 3, Brooklyn, Equity Gallery, New York, Firework Gallery, Brooklyn, Galerie Lake, Oldenburg, Germany, and Pepin Moore Gallery, Los Angeles. She currently lives and works in Brooklyn.

ABOUT PAUL

Paul Gagner received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts and an MFA from Brooklyn College. Recent shows include Katharine Mulherin Contemporary, Toronto, ON, Allen & Eldridge, New York, SPRING/BREAK Art Show, New York, Old Stone House, Brooklyn, David & Schweitzer Contemporary, Brooklyn, Lesley Heller Workspace, New York, Driscoll Babcock, New York, and Linda Warren Projects, Chicago.

ABOUT TODD

Todd Bienvenu received his BFA from Louisiana State University and pursued his MFA from the New York Studio School. Recent exhibitions include Harper's Books, East Hampton, yours mine & ours, New York, Galerie Sebastien Bertrand, Geneva, Life on Mars Gallery, Brooklyn, Galleri Kant, Copenhagen, 0-0, Los Angeles, Adam Baumgold, New York, FLAG Art Foundation, New York, Louise B. James, New York, and Steven Zevitas Gallery, Boston, MA.