

Sonya Gallery: A Sunflower Network Project

New Paintings

Curated by Jack Chase & Dylan Siegel

November 9 - December 9, 2023

555 Greenwich Street

Sonya Gallery is pleased to announce *New Paintings*, the gallery's fifth exhibition benefitting the Ukrainian aid charity Sunflower Network. The exhibition features over 40 paintings by new, emerging, and rediscovered artists from around the world in support of Project Horizon, Sunflower Network's efforts to construct a hospital in Brody, Ukraine.

Works by the diverse group of 26 painters featured in the exhibition vary widely in scale, technique and content. Most of the participating artists are in their 20s or 30s, but emerging and reemerging painters in their 40s, 50s, and 70s are represented as well. What unites these artists is a shared emphasis on craft over adherence to trends - in an arts landscape dominated by "instagramability," this show seeks to break through the noise, championing painters for their individual styles, techniques and perspectives.

The entrance of the gallery is anchored by Japanese painter Sho Shibuya's (b. 1984) *ONE YEAR. (2023)*, an abstraction of the Ukrainian flag painted on a found copy of the New York Times issue marking the one year anniversary of the full-scale Russian invasion. Shibuya's work contextualizes the exhibition and its aim to support medical care in Ukraine, and continues the artist's New York Times series. Shibuya has produced a painting on a copy of the newspaper everyday since April of 2020, recently showing a selection in a solo exhibition at Unit London.

The main wall of the gallery is devoted to a salon hang of over 20 medium and small scale paintings. Many of the works explore the centuries old tradition of landscape painting through a contemporary lens. Acrylic on panel paintings by Nancy Friedland (b. 1971), who turned to painting just 6 years ago after a lengthy career in photography, feature prominently. Three small works by Robert Savage (b. 1947) in oil and watercolor pay homage to Cézanne and Matisse, and mark the artist's first exhibition in New York in two decades. Following a recent solo exhibition at Spencer Brownstone Gallery in New York, Romanian painter Szabolcs Veres (b. 1983) contributes three recent highly textured oil paintings which attempt to update and refresh old-master style painting.

The rest of the gallery space is devoted to larger works by emerging artists that often question the medium itself. A large recent work by James Chronister (b. 1978), following a

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recent solo exhibition at Nino Mier Gallery in Los Angeles, is stunning in its photorealistic representation of a Montana forest. Armando Nin (b. 1986) works with candles, burning soot marks onto the canvas to create sprawling, large-scale abstract paintings, while Anna Higgins (b. 1991) uses archival varnish and photographic reversal film to create work which appears to explode with light.

New Paintings features many emerging artists under 30 years old, many showing for the first time in New York. The show includes new work by Marika Thunder (b. 1998), Darin Cooper (b. 2000), Atticus Wakefield (b. 1998), Ariel Steinbach (b. 1998), T.J. Bohm (b. 1994), AJ Pineda (b. 1997), Olive Diamond (b. 1999), Diego Miró-Rivera (b. 1999), Georgia Hupfel (b. 1999), Ruby Dickson (b. 1996), and more.

About The Project

Since launching in March 2022, Sunflower Network has delivered over \$3.5M of life-saving aid to Ukrainians in need. Sunflower Network is leveraging the power of public-private partnerships to construct a new, WHO-standard hospital in Brody, Ukraine.

Sonya Gallery, founded September 2023, has raised over \$600,000 for Sunflower Network through exhibitions of Ukrainian contemporary art in New York, Los Angeles, and Aspen. *New Paintings* marks the gallery's first show featuring work by non-Ukrainian artists in support of the project.

For more information, please visit sunflownetwork.io/sonya-gallery or write to dylan@sunflownetwork.io