

:: GRANT WAHLQUIST GALLERY

Henri Paul Broyard: Episode 2

5/10/19 – 6/22/19

Grant Wahlquist Gallery proudly announces Henri Paul Broyard's second solo exhibition with the gallery, "Episode 2." The show will run from May 10 through June 22, 2019. An opening reception will occur on Friday, May 10 from 5 – 8 pm. The gallery will host a conversation with the artist on Saturday, May 11 at 2 pm.

"Episode 2" extends Broyard's engagement with the interior scene as framework for painterly experimentation. Broyard collects photographs from thrift shops, flea markets, and cast-off design magazines, often cropping them or removing figures to generate an initial pictorial situation. Within this structure, Broyard creates zones of abstraction that are alternately improvisatory and deliberate, working until portions of the picture may be unrecognizably distorted or transformed. As critic Jenna Crowder wrote of his first exhibition at the gallery, "The magic of Broyard's approach lies in the way he intentionally obfuscates and erases the details of his sources to a point where we cannot determine with any certainty if these are found spaces or now Broyard's." Discrete elements in his paintings shine with remarkable freedom, yet each work retains its overall sense of composition and balance with a casual elegance.

While the paintings in "Episode 2" demonstrate Broyard's appetite for the history of painting, they are not examinations of artistic influence or puzzles for the viewer to decode. Broyard is aware of his forerunners but is not mastered by them, borrowing and repurposing their marks and styles to create a vocabulary that is thoroughly his own. In each picture, we see Broyard painting himself into a corner and then using any painterly tool he sees fit to bravely paint his way back out, to varying degrees allowing this process to remain transparent for us, to see his joy in the simple pleasure of pushing paint. As with the exhibition as a whole, each painting is an episode in the life of a young artist who continues to challenge himself—and us—to look harder, deeper, and differently, with both confidence and warmth.

Henri Paul Broyard received a B.F.A. in Drawing and Painting from the California College of the Arts in 2013. He attended the Klasse Peter Doig at the Kunstakademie, Dusseldorf, in 2014. His first exhibition at the gallery was reviewed by Jenna Crowder in *The Rib*. The gallery's presentation of his work alongside Kate Greene's at Art Los Angeles Contemporary 2019 received positive notice in *ArtNews*. His work has also been included in group exhibitions at: Essex Flowers, New York; Cindy Rucker Gallery, New York; Galerie Rainboww, New York; SOLA Art Gallery, Los Angeles; the School of Painting Hangzhou, China; Tom Dick or Harry, Dusseldorf; 41 Cooper Square Gallery, New York; Haphazard Gallery, Los Angeles; and 119 Essex Street, New York. Broyard lives and works in Brooklyn, New York.

The gallery is located at 30 City Center, Portland, Maine. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am to 6 pm, and by appointment. For more information, visit <http://grantwahlquist.com>, call 207.245.5732, or email info@grantwahlquist.com.