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SIMONE KENNEDY DOIG

Waist Deep

July 9 – August 20, 2022

Aiming to extricate the latent capacities and unique possibilities of figurative painting, Kennedy Doig's work explores a mixed-up landscape of real and imagined spaces and scenarios, populated by the people closest to the artist—siblings, partners, and friends. The concept of place is central to this work. "My earliest years", Kennedy Doig notes, "were spent in King's Cross, London, where I was born. But at the age of 8, my family moved to Port of Spain, Trinidad and it is there where I spent most of my formative years". While living in Trinidad, the artist was confronted not only by the raw beauty of the natural landscape but also by the chaotic urban environment of Port of Spain itself, personified by its annual Carnival. "I felt and continue to feel compelled to respond to this world that I inhabited", she observes, "as its rich culture has made such a significant impression on me, and my personal attachments to Trinidad are very emotionally potent. A great deal of my work reflects this time of my life. Since having returned to London in 2013, the local urban sites have cropped up in paintings as well, and at times merge with imagery from Trinidad, informed by, and reflective of, my dual reality, as I maintain a complex ongoing relationship with both places".

Kennedy Doig's working process typically begins with photographs. Using a basic iPhone camera as a pocket notebook, a sketch pad, or a visual diary to document the sights and events of daily life, the artist later returns to these snapshots, breaks them apart, and collages the locations and characters together into timeless memory scenes. A long and laborious time is spent on each composition—drawing, etching, and then painting the same subject over and over again to break away from the original source material and disturb the easy accessibility of conventional realism. What results are images that are less direct and more mysterious in ways undeniable yet barely perceptible, gently veering in and out of the surreal in a subtle play of Magic Realism.

Simone Kennedy Doig (b. 1994, London) lives and works in London. She is a graduate of the Slade School of Fine Art, the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, and Central Saint Martins, London. Recent notable exhibitions include *Wild Dogs* at Michael Werner gallery, New York, *Everything is Personal*, TRAMPS, New York, *Homework* at Madragoa, Lisbon, Portugal, *Paint, also known as blood* at the Museum of Modern Art, Warsaw, Poland, and *The Lore of the Land* at Churchgate Gallery, Somerset, UK, among others.