

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

NEW YORK | ASPEN

Marianne Boesky Gallery Presents *Golden Hour*, Danielle Mckinney's Solo Exhibition with the Gallery

On View October 13 - November 12, 2022

507 W 24th Street, New York, NY 10011



New York City — Marianne Boesky Gallery is pleased to present *Golden Hour*, Danielle Mckinney's first solo exhibition at the gallery's New York space. In the new works on view, Mckinney expands and deepens her exploration into female subjecthood. The show's title, *Golden Hour* reflects the mood and aesthetic sensibility of her paintings—the soft, resonant light of a particular time of day that often inspires self-reflection and signals the beginning of a period of relaxation. Emotionally as much as physically, *Golden Hour* marks the transition from the external world of work and play to the internal world of rest and solitude.

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Depicted in abstractly domestic settings, the figures in Mckinney's work offer a radical possibility: a space in which a person is utterly free to be themselves, an existence circumscribed in aesthetic terms of their own devising. Whether sleeping or smoking, sitting or reclining, these figures inhabit a sense of freedom and raw emotion one feels in the safety of their own space. Mckinney's paintings are strongly influenced by her time spent in Pont-Aven, France and her exposure to the style of Synthetism, with its emphasis on bringing a spiritual dimension into the visual plane. For Mckinney, the spatial possibilities offered by painting are an entry point into accessing universal human experiences and spiritual truths.

The revelations of Synthetism and its "intent to convey emotions and ideas beyond representing the physical world" catalyzed a profound shift in Mckinney's work—she took painting as her primary mode, even as photographic elements continue to inflect her practice. With a photographer's precise technical sensitivity to contrast and color, Mckinney starts every painting with a layer of black gesso from which a portrait evolves, likening the work to the process of developing a photograph in a darkroom. As she has said, "I can't undo that photographic training—it's embedded in how I begin a painting. First, I paint the canvas with a black ground, and that black ground serves almost like the camera's viewfinder. It allows me to build the image." Photographs, often found on websites or social media, are the source material for her images, which she deploys to parse the nuances of gesture, color, and shape—a contemporary reimagining of the tradition of painting from live models.

As grounded as they are in photography, Mckinney's compositions are deeply painterly—the photographically inspired technique of starting from a black ground recalls the *chiaroscuro* of the Italian Baroque or the dramatic contrasts of shadows in light in Spanish Golden Age painting. In Marianne Boesky's words, "Danielle Mckinney exposes us to would-be private moments with an uncanny tenderness and power. Her figures are at once ethereal and grounded, cerebral and self-possessed. They, in effect, capture the utter essence of women." As meditative and spiritually moving as they are technically complex, Mckinney's paintings ultimately propose avenues for expansive empathy and self-knowledge. Working in a deeply humanist vein, Mckinney creates a world for—and from—every subject.

Golden Hour is on view **October 13 - November 12, 2022** at the gallery's 507 West 24th Street space.

About Danielle Mckinney

Danielle Mckinney (born 1981, Montgomery, AL) completed her BFA at Atlanta College of Arts in 2005 and her MFA at Parsons School of Design in 2013. Her work is in private and public collections including the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture

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Garden, Washington DC; Dallas Museum of Art, Dallas, TX; Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami, FL; The Israel Museum, Jerusalem, Israel; and the Hessel Foundation Collection at Bard, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY. Her work has been included in the exhibitions *Heroic Bodies* at the Rudolph Tegnors Museum, Dronningmølle, Denmark, *IN A DREAM YOU SAW A WAY TO SURVIVE AND YOU WERE FULL OF JOY* at The Contemporary Austin, *Uncanny Interiors* at Nicola Vassel Gallery, and *Black Melancholia* at Hessel Museum of Art. She is represented by Marianne Boesky Gallery in New York and Night Gallery in Los Angeles. Mckinney lives and works in Jersey City, NJ.

About Marianne Boesky Gallery

Since its inception in 1996, Marianne Boesky Gallery has represented and supported the work of emerging and established contemporary international artists of all media. In its first decade, the gallery was instrumental in launching the careers of major artists through an innovative exhibition program; and in 2016, the gallery expanded its flagship location to its adjacent space on West 24th Street. The gallery actively represents many significant international artists, including Ghada Amer, Sanford Biggers, Pier Paolo Calzolari, Donald Moffett, and Frank Stella. To learn more, visit marianneboeskygallery.com.

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For more information about Danielle Mckinney, please contact Director Beryl Bevilacque at beryl@boeskygallery.com or 212-680-9889. For press inquiries, please contact Justin Conner, THIRD EYE, at justin@hellothirdeye.com or 212-355-9009.

Image Caption: Danielle Mckinney, *Dream Catcher*, 2021. Acrylic on canvas. 24 x 18 in. (61 x 45.7 cm.). Courtesy of the artist, Marianne Boesky Gallery, New York and Aspen, and Night Gallery, Los Angeles. © Danielle Mckinney.

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