

Aleana Egan

Repeating Song

14 April – 27 May 2023

Kerlin Gallery is pleased to present *Repeating Song*, an exhibition of new work by Aleana Egan.

“It meant everything to her to sit on the bus and to work out what she wanted to say” – from *Come Back in September* by Darryl Pinckney

Across painting and sculptural arrangements, the works in *Repeating Song* foster an ambient space in which to convey sensations through looking. Traces of interactions and experience are harvested and expressed through material objects, colour, and form, presenting a rhythmic installation rooted in the blending of inchoate interior visions and sources from the world at large.

Painting has a more central presence in *Repeating Song* than in Egan’s previous exhibitions at Kerlin Gallery. The artist manipulates colour, surface, texture and density, layering thin, watery washes with thicker daubs. This interplay between lightness and dissolution, solidity and translucency creates atmospheric shifts that feel open-ended, or in a state of flux. Primarily in muted tones of blues and browns, the paintings are populated by fragmentary shapes that grasp at images and gesture towards movement, as if retrieving memories imprinted deep in the psychic landscape.

Similarly, in her sculptural work, Egan makes enigmatic forms from fabric, wood, papier-mâché, steel, shadows,

and dust. In *sound clips*, a diptych fabric wall relief acts as a pendant to a wooden chair holding clothes and fabric. In *Sky Song*, a white handbag in a horseshoe shape joins a group of more linear renderings made from cotton and noil (a type of raw silk). Cellulose fibres resembling dust populate a thin metal perimeter on the ground. These materials are chosen for their porosity and inter-animating qualities, which feel analogous to a faint absorbed sound. Fabric and textiles take on a renewed resonance in *Repeating Song*, hinting at a work of memory and an emotional atmosphere; folded clothes and scraps of textile evoke absence, but also the essence of a person – an external layer that can express our interiority.

Aleana Egan has exhibited at Sculpture Center, New York; Kunsthalle Basel; Kunsthalle zu Kiel; Landesmuseum Münster; The Drawing Room and Jerwood Space, London; Kettle’s Yard, Cambridge; Jupiter Artland, Edinburgh; Leeds Art Gallery; the Douglas Hyde Gallery, Temple Bar Gallery and IMMA, Dublin, and the Berlin Biennale. Recent solo exhibitions include *Void*, Derry (2022); *Künstlerhaus Bremen* (2021); *NICC Vitrine Brussels* (2020) and *Farbvision*, Berlin (2019). Recent group exhibitions include *Stations*, Berlin (2023); *CCA Andratx*, Mallorca (2022); *The Complex*, Dublin and *The Classical Museum*, University College Dublin (both 2021).

For media requests, please contact Rosa Abbott,
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Clockwise from desk:

Later:Now, 2023
mixed media on canvas
84 x 118 cm
33.1 x 46.5 in

sound clips, 2023
Chair, clothes, fabric diptych, fabric
samples, steel mesh, 4 elements
199 x 114 x 67 cm total
78.3 x 44.9 x 26.4 in total

Personal Style Rue de Turenne, 2023
oil on linen
75 x 108 cm
29.5 x 42.5 in

screen, 2023
mixed media on canvas
60 x 73 cm
23.6 x 28.7 in

Sky Song, 2023
card, tape, noil, cotton, papier mâché,
twine, split pins, 4 elements
155 x 130 x 7.5 cm total
61 x 51.2 x 3 in total

Between people, 2023
card, tape, noil, cotton
177 x 10.5 x 4 cm
69.7 x 4.1 x 1.6 in

middle, 2022
mixed media on linen
60 x 56 cm
23.6 x 22 in

anonymous tenderness, 2023
mixed media on linen
60 x 56 cm
23.6 x 22 in

memory shape (KG), 2023
shot-blast steel, cellulose fibre
300 x 600 x 3 cm
118.1 x 236.2 x 1.2 in

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