

BAERT GALLERY

REUBEN GORDON

YOU ALREADY KNOW

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Baert Gallery is pleased to announce *You Already Know*, an exhibition of new paintings by Reuben Gordon, his second solo show with the gallery. In this series, Gordon's painterly range in oil, pastel, and charcoal limns processes expressionistic and mathematical, photographic and gestural.

Images emerge from a period of transition and experimentation that meander from the Pacific Coast Highway to the Florida Everglades and Seoul, South Korea, as the artist makes his way home to New York City. The immediacy and fervency present here, the thrum of humanistic feeling imbues the canvases of people and places in *You Already Know* with a new kind of realism.

Yet Gordon's work also displays the visual discipline and underpinning of abstract painting—the correspondence of color, form, brushstroke, and the “sense of the resistant plane surface as a likeness of the visual continuum”, as Clement Greenberg wrote in 1949. The result is a poetic interplay between the literal flatness of the painting and the varied perspectival depths of the scene depicted.

Color is a protagonist in Gordon's work. In *Rainy Day Quarterbacks*, his spectral hues ascribe a thermal quality to the scene, alluding to the close physical and emotional heat of a crowd of football fans on a wet and rainy day. Gordon says the color palette of this work was particularly inspired by Joan Miró and the glow he achieves in works such as *Man and Woman in Front of a Pile of Excrement*.

Like Urs Fischer's “tale of ten cities” and Fassbinder's profane interiors, neon signs, dangling jewelry, and fragile chain-link fences present a view of the contemporary international city. Marks and phrases congeal into color and architecture. In nightlife paintings like *Man at a Crossroads*, *Subterranean*, and *She Read Me My Miranda Rights*, figures hover in a patchwork backdrop and mingle with abstract shapes, as if Arshile Gorky's idiosyncratic forms twist into Max Beckmann's moody figures.

Lush naturalistic gesture enlivens the Floridian compositions, *Mangrove Night* and *Flamingo Area*, breathing air and physicality into the cinematic and figurative representations of modern life. The result is Gordon's evocative vision of solitude and setting.

Reuben Gordon currently lives and works in New York City, where he was born in 1996. He studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and received a BA in Studio Art from Bard College in 2018. He later studied at the University of Pennsylvania, and is currently enrolled in Hunter College MFA program. Exhibitions include *Seoul*, Charles Addams Gallery, University of Pennsylvania (2023); *New Paintings*, Baert Gallery, Los Angeles (2021); *UNTITLED ART*: Miami Beach, Baert Gallery (2020); *Lunatics*, Wonzimer Gallery, Los Angeles (2018); *OMI International Art Center*, Ghent, NY (2017); and *21 and Counting*, The Painting Center, New York, NY (2014). Collections include the Frederick R Weisman Foundation, Los Angeles; Friends Seminary, New York; and private collections internationally.