GREENE NAFTALI

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On Landscape

Curated by Martha Fleming-Ives and Juliet Vincente

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On Landscape assembles a multigenerational group of artists adapting the genre to a changing world.

A storied (if never a dominant) practice grounded in tradition, landscape's association with the pastoral has long been countered by something more nuanced and oblique. The works on view span a century and chart those experiments across a range of styles and formats: some are near-forensic in their observation of a particular landform or stretch of coastline; others forgo that precision for half-remembered constructions or hover at the brink of abstraction. Seemingly placid vistas may be tempered with unease, as artists look outward for coordinates to map an inner terrain.

These scenes are largely devoid of human presence yet bear subtle signs of habitation: a hedgerow that marks a property line, a slatted fence amidst the trees. As the physical world increasingly recedes behind facsimile, landscape painting endures as a hinge between representation and the restless horizon that evades capture. Nature has been thoroughly reshaped by our intervention, yet still humbles with its immensity of scale: to render it with care is to acknowledge what preceded us, exists beyond us, and may well outlast us.