

THE BAKERY

BRIDGET MULLEN
FORGETTABLE SUNSETS

January 13 – March 3, 2018

We are very excited to be hosting the first solo exhibition by painter Bridget Mullen (1976, Minnesota, US) at The Bakery, our project space.

Improvisation, chance and free-association strategies are tools in Bridget Mullen's production. Her highly material paintings are the results of a collage rooted attitude, in which juxtaposition is mother to composition.



Bridget Mullen, *Forgettable Sunsets*, 2017

Through the repetition of ambiguous imagery overlapped with abstract elements and backgrounds, the artist questions a linear experience of time and evokes a sense of psychological disorder. Mullen's subjects – melancholic, human-like, cartoony figures – are, as she explains, conscious of their environment, they stretch to the edge of the canvas, are kept into position by abstract marks or remain independent from their surroundings. Repetition is the attempt to normalize the strangeness of these figures, although their looks remain cryptic.

In *Forgettable Sunsets* Bridget Mullen confronts with the idea that a sunset could be uneventful, unremarkable and thus forgettable. In this perspective, our contemporary relationship with nature, time – and what is worth our time – is questioned: if we are dissociating with nature, are we also dissociating with beauty? Through these paintings, the artist explores her interest in the gap between what a painting is and how it is felt and known. The painting offers a space for time and space to conflate, revealing the unexpected sustainability of ambiguity.

Bridget Mullen (1976, Minnesota, US) is an American painter and sculptor. She has attended residencies at the Jan van Eyck Academie, Maastricht, NL (2017); The Lighthouse Works, Fisher's Island, NY (2016); Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME (2016); Roswell Artist-In-Residence Program, Roswell, NM (2015-2016); The Fine Arts Work Center, Provincetown, MA (2010-2011 and 2014-2015); and Yaddo, Saratoga Springs, NY (2014). From 2017-2018 Mullen received a studio award in New York City from The Sharpe-Walentas Studio Program. Her current group shows include Belt Friction, Kopeikin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; Noonlight, Blackburn Gallery at the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts, New York, NY; and 20CM FROM THE GROUND, L21 Gallery, Mallorca, Spain.