



Fantasia: Ram Han, Maren Karlson, Chris Lux, Claire Milbrath, Alake Shilling, Alix Vernet
Curated by Claire Milbrath

July 20 - August 24, 2019

Steve Turner is pleased to present *Fantasia*, a group exhibition curated by Claire Milbrath inspired by the experimental Disney film of the same name; it features painting and sculpture by six international artists.

When released in 1940, *Fantasia*'s daring cinematic presentation of abstract and representational art combined with symphonic music was largely met with indifference by the public. Only decades later were Disney's vivid, psychedelic images recognized as icons in the film canon.

In making the film, the animators were encouraged to listen to the music and to create whatever imagery they envisioned. The results included hallucinatory floral ballets, dancing centaurs, swirling planets—and menacing brooms. As much as the film tried to imagine a far-away dreamland, it could not escape some of the dark socio-political issues of the time. While the exhibition takes cues from the sprawling, magical visions of the film, it also acknowledges that utopian themes of one era can often result in apt political metaphors for the present. Like the film itself, this exhibition invites viewers into an imagination excursion, both playful and dramatic, one that encompasses a kind of chaotic delight reminiscent of childhood. Through a combination of three-dimensional, digital, and traditional painting, these six artists create their own kaleidoscopic versions of pictures you can hear.

Claire Milbrath (b. 1989, Victoria, British Columbia) earned a BA in History from Concordia University. She had two solo exhibitions at Steve Turner in 2017 as well as a solo booth at Artissima Fair, Turin in 2018. She is the founding publisher and editor-in-chief of *The Editorial Magazine*, a print journal on contemporary art. Milbrath lives and works in Montreal.

Ram Han (b. 1989, Seoul, South Korea) earned a BFA at the Korea National University of Art. She creates digital paintings of dreamlike scenes. Han lives and works in Incheon, South Korea.

Chris Lux (b. 1980, San Francisco) earned a BFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. He creates painting, sculpture and immersive installations that are inspired by art history and decorative arts. Lux lives and works in Los Angeles.

Maren Karlson (b. 1988, Rostock, Germany) earned a BA in Visual Communication from the Universität der Künste Berlin. Her drawings and paintings are inspired by fantasy and surrealist imagery. Karlson lives and works in Berlin.

Alake Shilling (b. 1993, Los Angeles) studied at the Art Institute of Chicago. She creates sculptures and paintings that whimsically bring animals and floral characters to life. She has been featured in exhibitions in Europe and the United States. Shilling lives and works in Los Angeles.

Alix Vernet (b. 1997, Denver) earned a BA at UCLA. Her work explores the architectural frameworks of institutionalized and fantastical spaces and has been featured in exhibitions in the United States and in Europe. Vernet lives and works in Los Angeles.