

For Immediate Release:

Helen Sadler

03 January through 07 February 1998

Team will present a solo exhibition of new paintings by Helen Sadler from 03 January through 07 February 1998. The gallery is located at 527 West 26th Street, between Tenth and Eleventh Avenues, on the ground floor.

Sadler's debut exhibition consists of portraits of girls at a moment of emotional rapture. Painstakingly crafted with egg tempera on prepared Masonite panels, the conviction in these palm-sized paintings commands a great deal of space.

These young women were selected from a collection of filmed images of fans at early Beatles and Elvis concerts. Sadler's selections were made based on the subject's level of ecstasy and unselfconsciousness. Their idolatry blinded them to the filmmaker's presence and they were captured, forever contextualized with their idols.

Sadler now ruptures them from their association with "greatness", idolizing the fans instead of the stars. The resulting intimate nature of these works draws the viewer into this circle of fandom and religious reverence. Beatific and compacted, these images represent a major defining moment in the relationship between socialization and sexual identity for an entire generation.

Sadler's use of the traditional media of egg tempera creates a commanding tension in the conversation between painting and photography. These black and white images, which are confused for photographs at a distance, are actually made with layers of pure, transparent colors. Blues, yellows and reds are used in addition to the five or more layers of black, and the six to ten layers of white. This dense, weighty approach gives an emotional accuracy that is supported by the intelligent directness of the subject matter.

These paintings are the human remains successfully distilled from the complicated discussion of the individual in a media environment: a pure, aware and intimate moment. Although each girl seems unique within her capture, these paintings have the combined effect of an artist's self-portrait.

This is Sadler's first solo show at Team.

Gallery hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 11am to 7pm. For further information and/or photographs please call the gallery at 212.279.9219.