

# **LITTLE THEATRE**

## **NICKOLA POTTINGER**

**October 27 – December 21, 2019**

Parker Gallery is proud to present a solo exhibition of new work by Nickola Pottinger, marking the artist's first solo presentation to date. The exhibition includes three larger-than-life-size works on paper that are composed of multiple sheets fit together to create nebulous, organic forms whose boundaries are delimited by irregular edges that highlight the malleability of paper itself.

Trained as a dancer, Pottinger uses movement as a guiding principle to make her energetic compositions, often cutting up and rearranging sheets of paper until achieving the right balance. Characterized by surfaces that are built-up and worked over long stretches of time, the artist's meditative drawings illustrate a range of techniques and processes that constantly chart the traces of her hand.

Pottinger begins her drawings by applying alternately dense and loose layers of pastels in a variety of hues. Pipe cleaners, googly eyes, and fragments of paper—including intimate black-and-white ink drawings—are integrated into the larger composition, creating a sense of dynamism and awe at the sheer plethora of marks and surfaces achieved here. One gets the sense of encountering multiple worlds where time and space has collapsed, or of witnessing new forms of language being created (suggestions of hieroglyphic and tribal symbols abound). Like a map, the works have their own topography, where elements combine to create pathways that lead us in any number of directions.

In *Little theatre* (all works 2019), curved and straight lines, dots, animals, and repeated symbols populate every inch of the paper's surface, playing out a multitude of possible scenarios. In *Two Feet*, rows of letters that don't form words butt up against and sit on top of one another; elsewhere a blood red sun sets against a muddy brown horizon. Pottinger's intuitive mark-making and selective negation—she sometimes scrapes into the pastel surface to reveal layers of color beneath—is balanced with a deliberate sense of space; where a mark sits is just as significant as the mark itself.

**Nickola Pottinger (b. 1986 in Kingston, Jamaica) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Recent group exhibitions include *What's So Funny About Peace, Love, and Understanding?*, St. Charles Projects, Baltimore, MD (2019); *Spiritual Art Advisory, SPRING/BREAK*, New York (2019); *I'll Be Your Mirror*, mild climate, Nashville, TN (2018); and *Under the Paving Stones, FAR x WIDE*, Brooklyn, NY (2017). Pottinger graduated from the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York in 2008 with a BA, and was the recipient of the Michael S. Vivo Memorial Prize that same year.**