

Maysha Mohamedi: Sacred Witness Sacred Menace

May 11 – June 11, 2021

Parrasch Heijnen is pleased to present *Sacred Witness Sacred Menace*, the gallery's first exhibition of new work by Los Angeles-based artist Maysha Mohamedi.

Maysha Mohamedi's large-scale abstract paintings energetically fill the gallery with chromatic boldness. Each piece operates using a record of precious symbols and lyrical markings. The discovery of moments imparted by the artist's personal language presents time and place intertwined with identity. In this new body of work, Mohamedi gestures color in a nuanced way, using paint as a trail that tumbles down the canvas.

Mohamedi applies paint directly to the canvas with her hands, establishing both shapes and amorphic stamps repeatedly in her paintings. The gestural images are spontaneously generated by the process of their creation. The artist releases herself to the vulnerability of the present, providing space for intricacy to emerge.

Mohamedi's works reflect a fine balance between control and freedom, embracing the raw or imperfect in the variance of her fragmented marks. Energy flows from one piece to the next, the intensity of life translated in line and color. Using a fine tip brush, the artist frees the traditional sense of the line from contour, allowing its own breath to flourish. Thin lines float above a neutral ground or washes of color, giving a sense of weightlessness. The tracings inform their own evolution, allowing the imagery to develop and unfold with naturally occurring distinctions. The viewer's perceptual understanding of the artist's work is informed by how she inherently parses together past visual impressions.

At varying stages in her process, Mohamedi uses color in a reductive way by matching the raw canvas ground. She edits moments with a conscious awareness, a palimpsest in essence, visibly adaptive of its history. Each mark becomes emotionally charged and can almost be felt upon sight like the subtle yet potent instant where a line changes color mid-gesture.

Maysha Mohamedi (b. 1980, Los Angeles, CA) received an M.F.A. in painting from the California College of the Arts, San Francisco, CA and a B.S. in Cognitive Science, University of California, San Diego, CA. Mohamedi has recently been featured in solo exhibitions at Nicelle Beauchene Gallery, New York, NY, Halsey McKay Gallery, East Hampton, NY, and group exhibitions at Blum & Poe, Los Angeles, CA, Massimo De Carlo, VSpace, Italy, Loyal Gallery, Stockholm, Sweden and Artual Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon. Mohamedi was recently included on a group panel along with Laura Owens and Lisa Diane Wedgeworth at the ICA,

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Los Angeles, CA, titled *Who Are The BIPOC Abstract Artists?* a research and discussion session about the creation of a BIPOC abstract artist directory.

Maysha Mohamedi: Sacred Witness Sacred Menace will be on view at parrasch heijnen, 1326 S. Boyle Avenue, Los Angeles, from May 11 – June 11, 2021, by schedule of a timed visit. The gallery has secure, private parking onsite. We will provide a doors-open, socially distanced experience to safely welcome you to view the exhibition. Gallery staff are also available to guide you through our exhibitions virtually via Zoom. For more information, please contact the gallery at +1 (323) 943-9373 or info@parraschheijnen.com.

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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI
Head Up in the Clouds Like Zeus, 2021
oil on canvas
73 x 83 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI
Left Hand Lucky Hand, 2021
oil on canvas
81 x 99 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI

Aloe Cuts, 2021

oil on canvas

83 x 73 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI

Honey Vertigo, 2021

oil on canvas

99 x 81 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI
Accrued Merccy, 2021
oil on canvas
83 x 73 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI
At Home in the World of Men, 2021
oil on canvas
63 x 51 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI
Sacred Witness Sacred Menace, 2021
oil on canvas
17 x 15 inches



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MAYSHA MOHAMEDI

Cool Dreams Dropped Into Your Hearts, 2021

oil on canvas

81 x 99 inches

