

Alex Olson

November 20, 2021 – February 20, 2022

Los Angeles

“The work in this show continues my interest in how we read surfaces, both perceptually and socially. It does so with the added focus of thinking through how choices are made and navigated.

“The painting *Entrance* is just that: an entrance into the show from a work similar to those in the past. It sets up a surface structure visible through its physicality, interacting with light and shadow with colorful layers of rendered versions. As opposed to other works that also use modeling paste glops to suggest layers in transition that are peeling or overflowing, here the glops are compressed, conveying a more urgent or rapid turning over of options. *Presently* and *Decisions* offer a contrast between what I would call more “pre-known” exteriors resembling wallpaper or textiles with a reveal of an interior composed from knowable but less nameable brushwork. This interior was built from following intuitive logics, making choices to articulate some moves while editing out others, resulting in a field of unexpected and complex connections.

“*Sketch* discloses the initial thinking for the show with a selection of sketchbook drawings for paintings, some that made it in and some that did not. These are interrupted by a more painterly surface, negating the whole view of the preconceived plans. *Open Mind* reveals a large expanse of brushwork built from intuitive logic appearing to step out from layers of solid, more static grounds. *Seven* echoes *Entrance* in form, but in this instance a surface that reads as a sketch successfully transforms into a more colorful version of itself. *Page Turner* suggests a rapid turning over of surfaces to reach a potentially final ground of more loosely composed brushwork.

“The process of making this show has mirrored the everyday process of navigating surface reads, and then what results from that—choices made and actions taken. Initial plans led to many false starts, significant edits, reconsiderations, remakes, problem solving, and trust in intuition, landing these paintings at their final conclusions.”

—Alex Olson

Alex Olson (b. 1978 in Boston) lives and works in Los Angeles. She received her MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and her BA from Harvard University. Olson’s works are included in the public collections of Los Angeles County Museum of Art; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles; Walker Art Center, Minneapolis; Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago; and Dallas Art Museum. In addition to these institutions, her works have also been exhibited at University of Michigan Museum of Art, Ann Arbor; Altman Siegel Gallery, San Francisco; Kayne Griffin, Los Angeles; 12.26 Gallery, Dallas; and Public Fiction, Los Angeles. This is her second solo exhibition with the gallery.

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