

Dustin Hodges

Francine

October 22 - December 18

Opening Reception; Friday, October 22nd, 6 - 9pm

15 Orient is delighted to announce the opening of "Francine"; Dustin Hodges first solo exhibition at the gallery.

Francine asks the viewer to hypothesize an artwork which is not present. On view in the gallery: 7 Sixty-inch square paintings represent individual frames of an animated film taken out of their sequential context. 3 smaller paintings depict sections of film strip animating an ambiguous form diving downward and toward the viewer. Three distinct registers of reality overlay and interact:

Schematically inhabiting the upper half of the compositions are forms taken from a painting of moths by Odilon Redon, here setting the deep space of our stage set. Mound of earth at right, mass of flowers and dark foliage centre, outwash plain marshy bog left. An arrangement of shells, peculiarly shaped stones, seed pod forms separate the forest from the bog. A bulbous moth and anal flower preside. Slightly foregrounded, an ambiguous form—possibly a pile of rocks—is animated diving.

A host of characters from the animated cartoon "Arthur" populate the bottom of the frames. Three stills from a single episode lend a semblance of linear time to our hypothetical film. Francine looks away from us to the right, then away from us to the left, finally facing forward. Does she acknowledge the rock pile?

In one painting, a third register of glowing red mustelids introduces "real animals" derived from photos to oppose the ones wearing suits and the one diving forward like a pile of stones morphing into a mass of internal organs. They represent Francine's personality exploded into its various drives, loves, hates. She turns red and has a special relationship with the Diver: telepathic identification, reincarnate twin, spirit familiar, slave, master, demonic possession, lover...? Moving downward and toward the viewer, the Diver maps its transit from the over-story into the understory, marking loop time. Its destination is indeterminate: does it leap out of the rock pile to inhabit Francine or merely pass over or through her into the sub-story?

Dustin Hodges (b. 1984) lives and works in Truchas, NM. He completed a BA in Visual and Environmental Studies at Harvard University in 2006, and went on to study at Städelschule, Hochschule für Bildende Künste, from 2006–2007. In 2012 Hodges received his MFA from Bard College. Recent solo exhibitions include: *Establishing Shot* at Soft Opening, London, (2019); *Soothing Tranquil Energy* at Richard Telles Fine Art, Los Angeles, (2018); *toke of proof krept shep'ly* at Galeria Mascota, Mexico City, (2016); *The Brown Decades* at Off Vendome, Düsseldorf, (2015); *Late Stick Style* at Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, (2014).

—

Image Checklist (in order of file name)

1. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
2. LEP_49, 2020, oil and graphite on linen
3. LEP_49, 2020, oil and graphite on linen
4. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
5. LEP_47', 2021, oil, graphite and shellac on linen, mounted on linen and panel
6. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
7. LEP_47"', 2021, oil, graphite and shellac on linen, mounted on linen and panel
8. LEP_47"', 2021, oil, graphite and shellac on linen, mounted on linen and panel
9. LEP_36, 2020, oil and graphite on linen
10. LEP_36, 2020, oil and graphite on linen
11. LEP_36, 2020, oil and graphite on linen
12. LEP_47"', 2021, oil and graphite on linen, mounted on linen and panel
13. LEP_47"', 2021, oil and graphite on linen, mounted on linen and panel
14. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
15. LEP_53, 2021, oil and graphite on linen

16. LEP_53, 2021, oil and graphite on linen
17. LEP_54, 2021, oil and graphite on linen
18. LEP_54, 2021, oil and graphite on linen
19. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
20. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
21. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
22. Dustin Hodges, Untitled, 2021, ink on paper
23. Dustin Hodges, Untitled, 2021, ink and photo on paper
24. Dustin Hodges, Untitled, 2021, ink and photo on paper
25. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
26. LEP_11, 2021, oil and graphite on linen
27. LEP_55, 2021, oil and graphite on linen
28. Dustin Hodges, *Francine*, 2021, installation view, 15 Orient, New York
29. LEP_32, 2020, oil and graphite on linen
30. LEP_32, 2020, oil and graphite on linen