

Theta

Hannah Taurins

Cover Girl

February 23 - March 26, 2022

“People always want to know what my real hair color is, as if that would reveal something essential.”

– Marlene Dumas

Theta is pleased to present *Cover Girl*, Hannah Taurins’s debut solo exhibition. In her hybrid drawing-painting practice, Taurins’s surfaces are built up by prismatic layers of colored pencil, gouache, and marker. Facial features and flexed limbs are variously flayed and ablated by rough erasure that congeals pigment and conceals personhood, condensing figures to form.

In a series of vibrant works on paper mounted to wood, female characters twist and tilt rhythmically toward a vanishing point of identity. Taurins works simultaneously from reference and the imaginary, so that a pose might derive from a contortionist’s photo archive, a face from fiction, accessories from an ad campaign. A matrix of working women—background dancers, models, spies, and vamps—fold professional distance into seductive choreography. What do they want? That’s none of your business.

Something like desire carries the eye from one image to the next. Taurins seeks the vacancy in that urge and articulates it in the capacities of the feminine form. Alternately coquettish and aloof, they give little away with regard to agendas beyond their command of the picture plane. Bending, staring, preening, twirling subjects slip in and out of objecthood, their images refracted under the cast of a sour limelight.

Hannah Taurins (b. 1997, Houston, TX) is an artist who lives and works in New York City. She received a BFA from The Cooper Union in 2021. Upcoming exhibitions include *Trivial Pursuit*, curated by Daisy Sanchez at Entrance, New York. *Cover Girl* is Taurins’s first solo exhibition.