Full Haus

Brenna Ivanhoe *Water and Alcohol* July 15 – August 26

Water and Alcohol consists of new drawings, paintings, and ceramics by Brenna Ivanhoe. The title refers to the substances that repeatedly appear in the social scenes Ivanhoe's works evoke through depiction, material, or mood.

The oil on paper *The Floating Flaneur*, 2017, shows a goggled woman drifting in pool with a crowd of onlookers on the left. Although confident, direct brushwork unifies the scene, the composition of the painting derives from two separate sketches. The impulse to look and compare manifests in the overall depiction as well as in the fragmentary construction of the work.

Honeycreeper, 2016, a sand-on-photo collage, uses an image of a shirtless man as a ground and the literal ground of the beach as a medium. The collage is both an overt monochrome—the epitome of abstraction—and a defaced pin-up—an icon. In the process of making her works, Ivanhoe does not privilege one mode over the other. Pieces that start with figuration may move to abstraction, or vice versa, as in the gestural intensity of the lines that constitute a portrait of Laura Dern in Seducer Seduced, 2017, or her slyly figurative monochrome Pool, 2017.

Pool might also be a kind of icon, standing for a place where a mind might float, or a vast accumulation of portentous liquid—a model of a viewer and a painter, respectively. As the hand gripping a wine glass in *Arrangement*, 2016, reminds us, fluids affect feelings.

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