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Exhibition from March 21 to May 10, 2014

Monica Majoli

Pam

Pam is an exhibition comprised of four paintings of the same woman over the span of twenty years. Three recent portraits on view recall the *Black Mirror* series, which Majoli developed from 2008-2014. The series was based on photographs of former lovers as reflected in the black mirrors which line the bedroom of her Los Angeles home. Here, however, the visual interference is less pronounced, so much so that the artist sees these works as a distinct body of images. For her, in this group of paintings, the return to employing oil paint as a medium is also a return to a face she associates with the history of European painting. The three new portraits are juxtaposed with the artist's first autobiographical painting, made in 1992 and included in her first exhibition at Air de Paris in 1995. This lapidary painting on pentagonal panel documents in a devotional mode the artist with Pam in her bedroom as it was then. Rife with symbolic imagery, Majoli explains that she was challenged by the intensity of the format and sought to paint an image that held the power of the shape itself. She identified Pam with a bird and in this domestic shape she cites a birdcage. In bringing these paintings together for her fourth solo exhibition at Air de Paris, she examines not only her subject, Pam, but herself in the form of the paintings themselves, a depiction of the artist's divergent and related concerns over the course of two decades of painting. Most of all she is reasserting her work's affinity with a personal, domestic history and an ambivalence - the exhaustion/permanence of desire - which her pictures succeed neither in resolving nor truly revivifying precisely because they share its fetishes.

Monica Majoli was born in 1963 in Los Angeles, California, where she lives and works. Her works have been acquired by prestigious American collections: MoMA (New York), Whitney Museum of American Art (New York), The Hammer Museum (Los Angeles) and The Getty Research Institute (Los Angeles). In 2014, she will participate in the exhibition Tony Greene: Calm Amid Voluptuous, Made in LA, at the Hammer Museum, Los Angeles.

List of Works [Fourth space]

Untitled, (Pam 1), 2014

Oil on panel, 31,7 x 45,1 cm
unique

Untitled, (Pam 2), 2014

Oil on panel, 38,7 x 37,4 cm
unique

Untitled, (Pam 3), 2014

Oil on panel, 45,7 x 38,1 cm
unique

Untitled, 1992

Oil on panel, 39 x 41 cm
unique