

Iowa

Madeline Casteel
Town
May 11 - June 9, 2024

Town is six paintings:

1. *Assistant*
2. *Church*
3. *Star of Bethlehem*
4. *Car*
5. *Donkey*
6. *Singer*

Each of the works included in *Town* is an individual entity. Together they form a small community, each with its own role and varying levels of tension to the others.

The artist's work is made through a process of building each painting's surface and breaking it down continually until a density and haptic quality is found. Repetition happens on a single surface as paintings are made over and over on top of themselves. The resulting marks are both additive painting strokes and scratches and recesses on the paintings' surface. The works are treated somewhat like jewelry; tarnished with use and polished again.

Figures and structures operate as models within each painting—containers wherein the process of accumulation and erasure occurs. Less concerned with a fixed or shared narrative, image becomes a form of concealment, fastened to a shifting surface—a costume for each painting to wear. The subject rendered holy or revered becomes bruised with devotion.

Madeline Casteel (b. 1995 Monterey, California) lives and works in New York.