

Ptolemy

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Simone Siegel

Alien Estates

September 19–October 12, 2025

Opening Reception: September 19, 2025, 6:00–8:00 PM

Glendale, NY, 9/19/25: Simone Siegel uses a specific naming convention for all of her artworks: The titles are drawn from a 2008 post from the now-defunct *New York Times* horse racing blog, *The Rail*, called “Worst-Named Horses,” in which writer Eric Banks lists the 500 worst real horse names that he and a friend had compiled from years of reviewing weekly race results.

The inherent humor of the list’s concept and its blunt title straightforwardly relate to the immediacy and playfulness of Simone’s work in *Alien Estates*. The colors are bright and confrontational; the works are puffy and strange and literally fill the air of the gallery; the central painting in the show won’t stop looking at you. The list itself, however, is a bizarre patchwork of cultural references, puns, and non sequiturs. The light anecdotes that mark the beginning of “Worst-Named Horses” betray the deepness and strangeness of the list’s rabbit hole—500 is honestly a lot of names.

As you walk into *Alien Estates* and look closer at Simone’s paintings, the qualities that arrest from afar begin to transform into increasingly smaller worlds of grids, collages, marks, and gestures. The paper compositions in the center of each work tend to draw from a set of recurring motifs, but the ways in which the layered visual elements compete with and complement one another shift as one makes their way through the room. The frames, drawing from Simone’s costume design experience, utilize a variety of textiles—some found and others printed painted or otherwise modified by the artist—which continue to complicate the works. The two largest paintings in the exhibition incorporate motion sensing and other electronic components in ways that force active participation with their audiences: *ALTA CLOCKER* features eyeballs that follow you around the gallery, while *I DIED LAUGHING*’s tiger tail starts flicking at you when you approach.

“Alien Estates” is a twofold descriptor for the works in the show. The paintings do appear extraterrestrial. But they also serve as homes for disparate materials and incongruous ideas to coexist alongside one another.

Pat Reynolds

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Simone Siegel is an artist and costume designer based in New York. She received her BFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 2015. Her work has previously been shown in solo and group exhibitions at Schoolhouse Gallery, Provincetown, MA. In 2024, was a featured artist in Materials For the Arts' Third Thursday programming series, and in 2025 she presented a costume collection in Reworked Runway at Xanadu, Brooklyn, NY.