

CHELSEA CULPRIT

Art Basel Miami Beach 2022: Positions P2

Queer Thoughts, New York

Queer Thoughts presents an installation of new work by Chelsea Culprit, featuring a singular large-scale sculpture, and a suite of new paintings. The central element of the installation is a floor to ceiling sculpture of mirror-polished stainless steel, entitled *Relaxed Pole*. The minimalist sculpture references a pole-dancing pole used in strip clubs, but in this work the rigid verticality of the pole has relaxed into a curvilinear, reticulated form, making an expressive line drawing in space, and transfiguring the transactional utility of the monolithic power object.

A series of new paintings will encompass the walls of the booth using the artist's rigorous abstraction of bodily forms to elaborate the theatricality of the body's capacity for work, play and expression. Through processes of abstraction and material experimentation, Culprit's canvases explore the visual-cognitive mechanisms of the mind's eye. Culprit displaces the centrality of the image in favor of complex visual surfaces for play and discovery, engaging the eye in constellations of expressive meaning, myth-making and language. Culprit's work continues its explorations of gender, labor, and desire, but does so while playing with degrees of legibility, genre, and cognition.

Moving freely between the pictorial imagery of folk art and the materiality of the real world, Culprit's works are composed of feelings as much as descriptions. Recurrent signifiers of the dancer—high heeled feet and platform shoes, claw-like embellished nails, and bikini bottoms—continue to populate Culprit's canvases and act as an artistic signature within an unbounded field of aesthetic exploration.

CHELSEA CULPRIT (b. 1984 in Paducah, KY) lives and works in New York and Mexico City. Recent solo exhibitions include *Amygdala in Repose*, Morán Morán, Los Angeles; *Susurro Sibila*, Revolver Galería, Buenos Aires (2021); *Malas Madres*, Lulu, Mexico City (2019); *Fear of Seduction*, Queer Thoughts at Maureen Paley, London, UK (2019). Culprit's work has been featured in recent group exhibitions at Museo Tamayo, Mexico City (2021); Museo Arte de Zapopan, Guadalajara, Mexico (2020); Palais de Tokyo, Paris, France (2019); Museum of Modern Art Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland (2019); Revolver Gallery, Lima, Peru (2019); Australian Centre for Contemporary Art, Melbourne, Australia (2018); and Museo de Arte Carillo Gil, Mexico City, Mexico (2018).