

Will Sheldon

Trouble After Dark

team (gallery, inc.)

tel. +1 212 279 9219 - www.teamgal.com

Will Sheldon
Trouble After Dark
05 March – 11 April 2020
83 Grand Street

Team (gallery, inc.) is pleased to present a one-person exhibition of new works by Will Sheldon, entitled *Trouble After Dark*. This is the eleventh entry in our project room series "Gallery B," and will run from 05 March to 11 April 2020. Team is located at 83 Grand Street in New York, cross streets Wooster and Greene, on the ground floor.

Darkness has yet to fall completely in Will Sheldon's twilight grouping of new paintings, but the gathering shadows thrum with a sense of brewing peril and dreamy dysphoria. The wastelands of *Trouble After Dark* are dotted with spidery, glimmering architecture and wilting trees bowed with puckish melancholy; even without a figure, the environments imply a presence at turns ominous and auspicious. Sheldon's scenes are inflected with fantasy and psychedelia, describing states of being and feeling that draw us in through an interlacing of the seductive and the off-putting.

The macabre sensibilities of the Baroque are an evident touchstone for the luminous suspense and surreal harm that looms over *Trouble After Dark*, and Sheldon's negotiation of beauty and horror intermingles Rubens and Gentileschi with a contemporary goth aesthetic. Stylistically, the airbrush-rendered works' exaggerated artificiality nods to Peter Saul and Lisa Yuskavage, while the fairytale *capriccio* of "Marvel by Candlelight" filters Thomas Kincaid and the Brothers Grimm through DeviantArt to arrive at a gauzy abjectness all its own. Much of Sheldon's imagery – ghoulish and angelic faces, tear-glinting eyes, dewey cobwebs, melting candles – might find shared territory on a high school notebook cover or Sharpie-scrawled JanSport. These signifiers of teendom and fandom connect to an overarching theme of an inner life and inner world brought into visual form.

Rather than being oriented around characters or narrative, Sheldon's scenes are invested with an allusive quality that makes the entities and elements register closer to apotropaic daemons, emotional avatars, and talismanic articles. Similarly, the paintings' apocalyptic–pastoral wastelands and environs of chronic failure feel highly specific yet untethered from time and place; Sheldon approaches the futuristic as an inherently dated aesthetic that recalls the past more than it evokes the future. The pace of change in the present day is perhaps most closely rivaled by that of the Victorian era, when, Roger Luckhurst writes, "Every scientific and technological advance encouraged a kind of magical thinking and was accompanied by a shadow discourse of the occult. For every disenchantment there was an active re-enchantment of the world." Within the mesmeric atmospheres of *Trouble After Dark*, the organic, supernatural, and technological are given equal say in shaping the physical world and rendering the psychological landscape.

For "Sitting in Skull Garden," Sheldon retools frailty into armor and ornament adorning the spindly form of the central figure. Their sexuality and elongated limbs call to mind the illustrations of Aubrey Beardsley, whose sinuous flourishes and emphasis on line is also reflected in Sheldon's craft. *Trouble After Dark* hinges in part on this melding of symbol, environment, and figure; rather than functioning as discrete elements, their fusing amplifies their shared anthropomorphic qualities and symbolic layers.

The gallery is open from Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 6pm. For further information and/or photographs, please call 212.279.9219.

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Will Sheldon
In the Garden, 2020
acrylic on canvas
40 x 30 inches; 102 x 76 cm
\$3,800





Will Sheldon
Heart Gate, 2019
acrylic on canvas
51 x 55 inches; 130 x 140 cm
reserved



Will Sheldon
Candle in the Forest, 2019
acrylic on canvas
55 x 44 inches; 127 x 102 cm
\$5,500







Will Sheldon

Sitting in Skull Garden, 2019

acrylic on canvas

79 x 67 inches; 183 x 163 cm

\$7,500



Will Sheldon
Web, 2019
acrylic on canvas
69 x 55 inches; 174 x 140 cm
sold







Installation view: *Trouble after Dark*, 2020, team (gallery, inc.), 83 Grand Street, NY, NY, 10013



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Will Sheldon

1990

Born in Hong Kong

Lives and works in New York, NY

Education:

2013

BFA, School of Visual Arts

Solo and Two-Person Exhibitions:

2019

Team Gallery, New York, NY, *Trouble after Dark*

2018

Arcadia Missa, London, *My Deep Secret* (two-person exhibition with Reba Maybury)

2017

White Columns, New York, NY, *Looking for Blueberries in a House Painted Brown*

Marti Ceramics, Los Angeles, CA, *Fluffy Buttons*

CLEOPATRA'S, Brooklyn, NY, *Tales from a Drippy Realm: The Card Thrower*

2016

Romeo, New York, NY, *Will Sheldon and Gobby*

Group Exhibitions:

2019

SALTS, Basel, *Crocodile Tears* (curated by Cassidy Toner)

Karma International, Zurich, *The Untamed* (curated by Taylor Trabulus)

2018

Company Gallery, New York, NY, *Altered*

2017

Lovaas Projects, Munich, *To Let Things Slide* (curated by Alana Alireza and Kristina Lovaas)

Karma International, Los Angeles, CA, *Prick Up Your Ears* (curated by Taylor Trabulus)

Schloss, Oslo, *Teenscape*

2016

Romeo, New York, NY, *Inaugural Exhibition*

2015

Shoot the Lobster, New York, NY, *Pet Sematary*

Selected Bibliography:

2019

Gallagher, Em, "30 Under 25," **Cultured Magazine**, Januar

2018

Mackinnon-Little, Guy, "My Deep Secret," **TANK Magazine**, August

2017

Schrek, Christopher, "Interview with Will Sheldon," **Sex Magazine**, December

Azizi, Arshy, "Prick Up Your Ears at Karma International," **Topical Cream Magazine**, August

Kitnick, Zack, "Tell 'em What You're Going to Tell em," **ArtNews**, February

Korman, Sam, "Critic's Pick," **Artforum**, January

2016

"Will Sheldon and Gobby at Romeo," **Sex Magazine**, October

Selected Projects:

2020

Saturn's Bite, illustrations for Lou Dallas SS20

2017

Sod Walker, illustrations for Lou Dallas SS18

Dining with Humpty Dumpty, written by Reba Maybury, illustrations by Will Sheldon, Published by Wet Satin Press

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