Alissa McKendrick
The Longevity of Learning and the Capacity to Care
December 11, 2014 – January 18, 2015
Opening reception: Thursday December 11th 7 – 10 PM

Real Fine Arts is pleased to present *The Longevity of Learning and the Capacity to Care*, an exhibition of new paintings by Alissa McKendrick. This is the artist's second solo show at the gallery.

Meandering across a haphazard array of rectangular and L shaped canvases, McKendrick's paintings layer figures and flowers with lo-fi planes of pattern and washed color. The works are loosely illustrative—in one a young girl reads a book, and in another a woman in a chic suit sits in a chair, the smoke from the end of her cigarette curling up into an image of the Eiffel Tower. Ungrounded flowers, drafted in a fashion more incautious than unskilled, seem on the brink of expiration under dull olive green strokes.

The paintings also inhabit the minimalist tradition of shaped canvases, repurposing the format as a narrative device—images and markings proceed across one side of the L before turning onto the next. The shaped canvases, along with the sparse hanging of the show, hint at the kind of bravado that a generation of artists formed a position against through the use of feminine patterns, translucent marks, and themes of family and the female body. McKendrick's works seem instead uncommitted to any posture—perhaps reflecting positions long ago assimilated, but operating more through intuitive, diaristic modes of self-concern.