

Flesh For Fantasy

Gail Stoicheff

20 September — 25 October 2020

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Henceforth I ask not good-fortune, I myself am good-fortune,
Henceforth I whimper no more, postpone no more, need nothing,
Done with indoor complaints, libraries, querulous criticisms,
Strong and content I travel the open road.
Walt Whitman

In the post-truth world of deep fakes, Catinca Tabacaru Gallery is pleased to present *Flesh For Fantasy*, a show of new paintings by Gail Stoicheff and the shallowest of fakes. Taking place over 5 weeks and 5 fantasy locations, F.F.F. indulges the fetishization of crumbling foundations, paint, place and travel as raw material for much needed reverie in troubling times. Situated in ancient and evocative settings, *Flesh For Fantasy* imagines scenarios from the improbable to the impossible, in both scale and site.

Stoicheff presents 13 vibrantly colored paintings that transmit confidence in the power of bold abstraction married with the intimacy of articulated details. Her rich studio practice advances the medium's traditions using velvet, fringe and dye as well as conventional canvas and oil paint. The body is subtly present, meandering through the work as gestural hand marks, loose figures and references to the Vitruvian form. Above all, her ethos telegraphs conviction in the vitality of touch, both raw and refined.

Flesh For Fantasy celebrates the artist as consummate fantasist, extending the freedom of the studio to the exhibition site and positing that anything should be entertained, however unreasonable. The paintings are real and modest in stature. The rest—scale in-situ, locale and subsequent context—is purely flesh for fantasy.

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