

HOLLIS TAGGART

Hollis Taggart Contemporary to Present Group Show of Portraiture

Reminisce, Featuring Painting and Sculpture by Five Contemporary Artists,
Will be on view at Hollis Taggart March 23 – May 6, 2023
Opening Reception Thursday, March 23, from 5-8PM

February 27, 2023 – Hollis Taggart Contemporary is pleased to announce *Reminisce*, a group show featuring new and recent work by Paul Anagnostopoulos, Jonni Cheatwood, Katie Hector, Justine Otto, and Adrienne Elise Tarver. Exploring the depth and breadth of contemporary portraiture, the exhibition celebrates the myriad ways identity can be expressed and portrayed through both painting and sculpture. *Reminisce* is the first exhibition in Hollis Taggart's recently expanded flagship at 521 West 26th Street curated by Paul Efstathiou, the gallery's Director of Contemporary Art, since the gallery consolidated its main Chelsea and satellite Southport, CT, locations. The exhibition will be on view on the second floor of the gallery from March 23 through May 6, 2023, with an opening reception on Thursday, March 23, from 5-8PM.

While the artists included in *Reminisce* come from very different backgrounds, they are united by their shared desire to push the bounds of portraiture, one of the oldest and most common genres of art. Featuring both portraits of specific people as well as of anonymous individuals, the faces and figures in *Reminisce* at times pose and directly confront the viewer, and at others look away or are blurred, withholding direct eye contact. There are figures pictured in domestic spaces and in elaborate landscapes, as well as some who have become one with their surroundings. Taken together, *Reminisce* offers a view into the diversity of approaches to portraiture taken by young artists today. Details on each artist's work follows below.

"The five artists in *Reminisce* represent the cutting edge of contemporary portraiture, and I am so excited to be returning to New York City with a show of their most recent work," said Efstathiou. "Following more than two successful years in Southport, CT, I am looking forward to returning to Manhattan to curate Hollis Taggart's contemporary division and to present it alongside the gallery's stellar modern and more historic programming. Looking back at one of the oldest artistic genres through a contemporary lens, *Reminisce* is the perfect show to celebrate the consolidation of the gallery's divisions into one flagship space."

Working in acrylic and oil painting, the Greek-American artist **Paul Anagnostopoulos** (b. 1991 in Merrick, NY; based in New York, NY) reexamines and reclaims Greco-Roman imagery to celebrate queer intimacy and storytelling in the contemporary moment. His paintings combine figures from ancient art, queer erotica, and life drawing in fantastical landscapes that transcend time. *Reminisce* will feature new and recent paintings by Anagnostopoulos as well as new terra cotta vases by the artist, in which he updates the traditional form with vibrant scenes of gay romance and melancholy.

Jonni Cheatwood (b. 1986 in Thousand Oaks, CA; based in Los Angeles, CA) is a self-taught painter who mixes oil, oil sticks, acrylics, and textiles to create characters that are at once unrecognizable and universally relatable. Cheatwood's painted scenes incorporate found textiles, resulting in unexpected textures and shapes that reference both interior and exterior spaces. *Reminisce* will feature Cheatwood's most recent works, including *Mama T's Wall O'Crosses* (2023), a painting reflecting the complex web of relationships between people and nature that encourages viewers to contemplate their own place within this interconnected system.

The works of **Katie Hector** (b. 1992 Lawrenceville, NJ; based in Los Angeles, CA) are composite portraits in which she layers bleach and dye, building up and erasing her materials to create blurred figures that have a glowing and almost ghostlike effect. Referring to her portraits as "allegories for longing, intimacy, and grief in response to isolation and dissociation," the three works in *Reminisce* were all made this year, and reflect upon contemporary feelings of isolation and dissociation within our collective image-dominant culture.

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The paintings of **Justine Otto** (b. 1974 in Zabrze, Poland; based in Hamburg, Germany) straddle abstraction and figuration, with hints of faces and figures emerging from abstract shapes and forms. *Reminisce* will feature both individual and group portraits by the artist, demonstrating her ability to apply her unique visual language to detailed studies of individuals as well as elaborate populated scenes. *Reminisce* will include new and recent paintings by the artist. Otto has been represented by the gallery since summer 2022.

Returning to Hollis Taggart for the first time following the successful two-person exhibition *History Reclaimed* in early 2020, **Adrienne Elise Tarver** (b. 1985 in NJ; based in Brooklyn, NY) will present recent works in which she continues to engage with the invisibility and complexity of Black female identity. *Reminisce* includes two large-scale collage works in which the artist uses water and the tropics as a starting point to reflect on the mythology of origin stories and histories of displacement of the Black diaspora.

About Hollis Taggart

Founded in 1979, Hollis Taggart presents significant works of American art, showcasing the trajectory of American art movements from the Hudson River School to American Modernism and the Post-War and Contemporary eras. Its program is characterized by a deep commitment to scholarship and bringing to the fore the work of under-recognized artists. The gallery has sponsored several catalogue raisonné projects, most recently for the American Surrealist artist Kay Sage, and has been instrumental in advancing knowledge of such artists as Alfred Maurer, Arthur B. Carles, and more recently, Theodoros Stamos, Marjorie Strider, and Michael (Corinne) West. In the summer of 2019, the gallery announced the formal expansion of its primary market business and focus on the presentation of contemporary work. It continues to expand its roster of contemporary artists, focusing on emerging and mid-career talents. With more than 40 years of experience, Hollis Taggart is widely recognized by collectors and curators for its leadership, expertise, and openness, on matters of art history, market trends and opportunities.

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