

MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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For Immediate Release

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Monya Rowe Gallery is pleased to announce representation of New York-based artist **Lacey Black**.

Lacey Black's paintings, which range from small-to-large scale, incorporate personal, fictitious and historical imagery. Black's work is deliberately unexplainable at times, almost otherworldly. Although the works appear fantastical, they are very much shaped by lived experiences. The paintings are rooted in figuration, yet dance with lyricism, abstraction and surrealism.

Some of the characters in the playful procession depicted in *Parade of Incarnations* (2024) include family members, a drag queen from RuPaul's Drag Race alongside the Hindu guru Neem Karoli Baba, Abraham Lincoln, and an assortment of animals straight out of an Edward Hicks painting. The journey these characters are embarking upon is a metaphor for a spiritual path. Sassetta's early Renaissance painting titled *The Journey of the Magi* (ca. 1433–35) is a direct inspiration. Black manipulates acrylic paint to give the appearance of layered tempura and likens this to her love of Renaissance painting. Identifying a sense of Place can be challenging. Black's landscapes and interiors are often an amalgamation of locations the artist has visited, lived or imagined. Recognizing the unknowable - is it present day, the past, or the future? – in Black's whimsical configurations is akin to unravelling a distant memory.

Alongside Edward Hicks (1780-1849), Black also considers Horace Pippin (1888-1946) and Florine Stettheimer (1871-1944) large influences. The artist says: "My paintings are centered around a spiritual practice of going into the unknown, trying to wake up, and searching for the unnamed connections within all living beings. I include a lot of different people, animals and things in my paintings, from different moments in time, and also unnamed things, more abstract forms. In Taoist and Buddhist writings, they call this "the ten thousand things" which represents all the material diversity of the universe."

Lacey Black (b. 1992, Pittsburgh, PA) received a MFA from *Purchase College State University of New York*, Harrison, NY and a BFA from *Rhode Island School of Design*, Providence, RI. Recent exhibitions include *PS122 Gallery*, NY and *Richard and Dolly Maass Gallery*, Purchase, NY. In 2024, Black was awarded a residency at *Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture*, Skowhegan, ME. Black's work will be on view at *Monya Rowe Gallery* in the upcoming summer group exhibition, and in a two-person exhibition in September 2024. The artist lives and works in Mt. Vernon, NY.

Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 PM