

# MONYA ROWE GALLERY

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**For Immediate Release**

## GRETCHEN SCHERER

*Love Letters*

April 2– May 9, 2020

Opening reception: Thursday, April 2, 6-8 PM

**Monya Rowe Gallery** is excited to announce a solo exhibition of new paintings by **Gretchen Scherer** titled *Love Letters*.

Scherer's paintings of interiors are reimagined depictions of museums or gilded homes displaying historic collections. After studying a collection online, Scherer selects her favorite paintings and sculptures from each museum. The painted rooms, subtly manipulated, are bursting with these masterworks painstakingly recreated in miniature form, and arranged floor-to-ceiling in a Salon-style installation recalling 18<sup>th</sup> century exhibitions. Ordinarily closed closets and cabinets are open, and hallways are seemingly endless. Informed by internet searches, books on interiors, and imagination, Scherer lovingly scrutinizes a museum collection and space by envisioning it anew. Now a version of the original.

Some of the institutions depicted in the exhibition are the *Hermitage Museum*, Saint Petersburg, Russia; *The Wallace Collection*, London, United Kingdom; *The Louvre*, Paris, France; *The Frick Collection*, New York; and the *Ham House*, London. In *The Missing Works, After Caspar David Friedrich* (2020), Scherer depicts a selection of stolen artworks found on an FBI database, including the still-missing paintings from the infamous 1990 heist at the *Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum* in Boston. The lost paintings depicted, suggestive of spirits, are seen through the various windows of a 17<sup>th</sup> century gothic mansion inspired by a Caspar David Friedrich (1774-1840) painting.

There is a felt absence in Scherer's paintings which are deliberately devoid of figures. Although the work engages with themes of loss and attachment, a playfulness emanates. In *The Wallace Collection After 'The Swing'* (2020), a swinging chandelier, positioned between two columns and an ornate table doubles as a character on a swing. In the background, with careful inspection, Jean-Honore Fragonard's (1732-1806) *The Swing* (1767) can be seen.

The excess of imagery challenges the viewer's relationship to space, memory, and objects. Embracing a contemporary interest in the ways in which objects are experienced - the artist has never visited some of the places depicted - Scherer hints at the current image-saturated culture that social media forces upon us. An intersection of art history and the modern world.

**Gretchen Scherer** (b. 1979, Indianapolis, IN) received a BFA from *The University of Illinois at Chicago*, IL and a MFA from *Hunter College*, NY. Residencies include *Skowhegan School of Sculpture and Painting*, ME and *Vermont Studio Center*. Recent group exhibitions include *Tillou Fine Art*, Brooklyn, NY and *Booth Gallery*, NY. Scherer's work was selected by Jerry Saltz for the *New American Paintings* Northeast Edition (2020). This is the artists' first solo exhibition at Monya Rowe Gallery. Scherer lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Gallery hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 6 PM

Upcoming

**EMILIE STARK-MENNEG**

For more information or images please contact the gallery at info@monyarowegallery.com

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