

DAVID KLEIN GALLERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
ELISE ANSEL, PALIMPSEST

June 20 – August 22, 2020
Opening Reception: Saturday, June 20, 12- 6 PM, by appointment



Elise Ansel, *Judith III*, 2020, Oil on linen, 72 x 56 inches.

David Klein Gallery, 1520 Washington Boulevard, Detroit, Michigan is pleased to announce the opening of *Elise Ansel, Palimpsest*, an exhibition of new paintings inspired by selected masterpieces in the collection of the Detroit Institute of Arts. An opening reception will take place on Saturday, June 20th, 12- 6 PM, by appointment. Please see below for details.

Viewing art history through a female lens, Elise Ansel translates Old Master paintings into vibrant contemporary abstractions. Improvising on the historical artworks, Ansel implements the color and composition of the masterpieces adding gestural expression to her interpretations. Her brushstrokes make a visible map of her movements as she vigorously applies the paint to canvas.

The artist describes her practice here: “...*To be clear, my collages and paintings are not critiques of the Old Masters, but rather a use of their depth and resonance to shine a light on imbalances existent today. In this, the Old Masters are my powerful allies. Painting is an ongoing process of never arriving, a goal without an end. New ideas emerge from preceding paintings and new paths open up. My intention is not only to make original work and deepen my own appreciation of Old Master painting, but also to bring this work into focus for other people, to enliven and reinvent old master/mistresspieces in the context of contemporary life and culture.*”

Ansel has determined to reclaim and re-present paintings that were done at a time when women were viewed as objects rather than as participants in the creative process. For this exhibition, inspired by the collection at the Detroit Institute of Art, Ansel was particularly drawn to *Flowers in a Glass Vase*, 1704, by Rachel Ruysch and *Judith and Her Maidservant with the Head of Holofernes*, 1623-1625,

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by Artemisia Gentileschi and produced multiple compositions based on these two paintings. Both Gentileschi and Ruysch were uniquely accomplished for their time and both received international recognition in their lifetimes. Ansel, inspired by these women from the past seeks to continue the conversations they began so long ago.



Elise Ansel, *RR Flower Detail V*, 2019, Oil on linen, 48 x 60 inches.

Elie Ansel, a native of New York City, is a graduate of Brown University and holds an MFA from Southern Methodist University. Her work has been exhibited widely in the United States and abroad and is in multiple private and public collections, including the Museum of Contemporary Art Krakow, Poland; Brown University, Providence, RI and Bowdoin College Museum of Art, Brunswick, ME. Elise Ansel lives and works in Portland, Maine.

For Appointments:

Please contact us at info@dkgallery.com or call 313-818-3416. Time slots are available in 1-hour increments, with a maximum of 16 visitors per hour.

Our priority is to ensure that your visit is as safe and enjoyable as possible. We request that all visitors wear masks and practice social distancing. All surfaces are cleaned and sanitized several times daily and hand sanitizer stations are provided the gallery.

For further information, please contact:

Christine Schefman

Director of Contemporary Art

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David Klein Gallery

1520 Washington Boulevard

Detroit, MI 48226

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By Appointment: Tuesday – Saturday, 12 – 5:30 PM

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