

DANA LOK

In Dana Lok's intricate figurative paintings, visual transformations coupled with unexpected and often counter-intuitive vantage points tease at the seams of how signs and representations express meaning. Each distinct body of work engages a range of specific ideas or problems as they undergo a translation from language to visualization, with the paintings recording all the distortions, spontaneous slippages, and sleight-of-hand substitutions at play to bridge the gulf between thought and image. Lok's paintings stage a heightened and at times surreal drama of compositional space in which different modes of knowledge and meaning-making are both props and actor, theater set and subject. Threading delicate tensions between signifiers, images in Lok's work gesture to their absent opposites, hidden in the shadows or just out of frame. Like a magician's trick, optical cues abound, distracting the viewer while subtly pointing to the fact that there is always more going on than meets the eye.

Lok first emerged as an abstract painter before turning to figuration and developing her distinctive style in which enigmatic questions addressing the passage of time or the act of seeing, for instance, are afforded imaginative, incisive answers. Complex and morphing systems of insight are made visible while never wholly transparent. These half-offered, half-withheld solutions hold the viewer's gaze and mind in a state of suspension, a testimony to her deep involvement with the complexities of the medium of painting.

Dana Lok (b. 1988, Berwyn, PA) received an MFA from Columbia University in 2015 and attended Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture in 2016. Solo exhibitions of her work include One Second Per Second at PAGE, New York (2020); Words Without Skin at Clima, Milan (2019); Mind's Mouth at Bianca D'Allessandro, Copenhagen (2018); Soft Fact at Clima, Milan (2017); and The Set of All Sets at Chewday's, London (2016). Group shows include The future perfect will have arrived, curated by Bridget Mullen, at Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles (2023); Le Biscuit à Soupe, at High Art, Arles, France (2022); Gravity, a proposal at Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York (2022); Jahresgaben at Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany (2021); Regroup Show at Miguel Abreu Gallery (2021); Fifteen Painters at Andrew Kreps Gallery (2021); PAGE (NYC) at Petzel Gallery (2021); and In Place Of, curated by Leah Pires, at Miguel Abreu Gallery, (2016), all in New York.

Lok's first solo exhibition at Miguel Abreu Gallery, Part and Parse, was on view from March 17 – May 7, 2022.

DANA LOK

Born in Berwyn, PA, 1988
Lives and works in Brooklyn, NY

EDUCATION

2016

Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME

2015

MFA, Columbia University, New York, NY

2011

BFA, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2022

Part and Parse, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY

2020

One Second Per Second, PAGE (NYC), New York, NY

2019

Words Without Skin, Clima, Milan, Italy

2018

Mind's Mouth, Bianca D'Alessandro, Copenhagen, Denmark

2017

Soft Fact, Clima, Milan, Italy

2016

The Set of all Sets, Chewday's, London, UK

SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2023

The Future Perfect Will Have Arrived, curated by Bridget Mullen, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles, CA

2022

Le Biscuit à Soupe, High Art, Arles, France

Gravity, a proposal, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York, NY

2021

Jahresgaben, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany

PAGE (NYC) at Petzel, Petzel Gallery, New York, NY

Fifteen Painters, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York, NY
Regroup Show, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY
Art Aid For Now, Benefit Exhibition, Deli Gallery, Brooklyn, NY

2020

Artist in Residence Biennial, UT Downtown Gallery, Knoxville, TN
Painting as Is, Fosdick-Nelson Gallery, Alfred, NY

2019

The Conspiracy of Art: Part II, Chateau Shatto, Los Angeles, CA
You Haven't Started Wondering About Yet..., curated by Lauren Marinaro, Halsey McKay, East Hampton, NY
Voi rubate de/ tempo al/a fretta, a noi ii mare ci impone la /entezza, Villa di Lorenzo, Italy
Double Negative, curated by Darling Green, ChaShaMa, New York, NY

2018

Drawings, 650mah, Hove, UK
Cat Lady, Teen Party, Brooklyn, NY
The Changes Wrought, American Medium, New York, NY
Art/Work, The LeRoy Neiman Gallery, New York, NY

2017

Born to Run, Lane Meyer Projects, Denver, CO
Everything You've Ever Wanted, Agency / Meta Meta Meta LLC, Brooklyn, NY
Listening at the See-through Door, Deli Gallery, Long Island City, NY
Dana Lok, Laure Prouvost, Mia Goyette, Bianca D'Alessandro, Copenhagen, Denmark
Double Take, Agency / Meta Meta Meta LLC, Brooklyn, NY

2016

Structural Underpinnings, The LeRoy Neiman Gallery, New York, NY
House of Orange, Kilroy Metal Ceiling, Brooklyn, NY
Meatballs!, Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Skowhegan, ME
In the Mix, Hometown, Brooklyn, NY
A Night Out of Town, Clima, Milan, Italy
In Place Of, curated by Leah Pires, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York, NY

2015

The Crack-Up, Room East Gallery, New York, NY
Floating Point, Judith Charles Gallery, New York, NY
Columbia MFA Thesis Exhibition, Fisher Landau Center for Art, Long Island City, NY

2014

MFA First Year Show, The Wallach Gallery, Columbia University, New York, NY
Networking Tips for Shy People, Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY

2013

Crush the Serpent, The Tea Factory, Brooklyn, NY
Imperative of Teaching: Studio Pedagogy, Bergen Community College, Bergen, NJ

2011

Other Possible Titles, Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia, PA
Rust Melt: New Abstractions from Pittsburgh, Fe Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

MEGA, Carnegie Mellon Senior Art Exhibition, Miller Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

BIBLIOGRAPHY

2022

Yau, John. "Opening Up the Thingness of Painting," *Hyperallergic*, April 28.
Schwartz, Alexis. "15 Artists to Watch in 2022," *L'Officiel USA*, April 19.

2020

Romano, Alberta. "It's A Date: Episode 2: Dana Lok," *Contemporanea*, Issue 10-11-12.
Heinrich, Will. "Paintings, a Phoropter and Near Normalcy", *New York Times*, Oct 16.

2018

"Ladies Choice: Dana Lok", *Art of Choice*, Sep. 11.

2017

Berg, Tatiana. "Must-See Art Guide: Copenhagen" *Artnet News Artguide*, August 31.
Phipps, Laura. "Dana Lok". *Cura*, Issue 25: 158-165. (Ill. C).
"TIPS: Dana Lok At Clima Gallery, Milan". *Cura* April.
Bordignon, Elana. "Art Text: Dana Lok E L'ambiguita Della Visione". *Atp Diary*, April 8.
Bria, Ginevra. "La Vista Sullo Sguardo. Dana Lok A Milano". *Artribune*, April 18.
New American Paintings. Issue #128, Northeast: 82-85, February/March.

2016

Bogart, Aaron. "Reviews: Dana Lok at Chewday's". *Frieze* March No. 185. 176 (Ill. C).
"Hurry Up on Art: Dana Lok at Chewday's" *Cactus*.