

## MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

### 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 Closer to the Metal, Clima, Milan (2023); Part and Parse, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York (2022); One Second Per Second, PAGE, New York (2020); Words Without Skin, Clima, Milan (2019); Mind's Mouth, Bianca D'Allessandro, Copenhagen (2018); Soft Fact, Clima, Milan (2017); and The Set of All Sets, Chewday's, London (2016). Group shows include darling, your head's not right, curated by Danica Lundy, François Ghebaly, New York (2023); Anything can pass before the eyes of a person, Derosia, New York (2023); X PINK 101, X Museum, Beijing (2023); The future perfect will have arrived, curated by Bridget Mullen, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles (2023); Le Biscuit à Soupe, High Art, Arles, France (2022); Gravity, a proposal, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York (2022); Jahresgaben, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany (2021); Regroup Show, Miguel Abreu Gallery (2021); Fifteen Painters, Andrew Kreps Gallery (2021); PAGE (NYC), Petzel Gallery (2021); and In Place Of, curated by Leah Pires, Miguel Abreu Gallery (2016), all in New York.*

*Closer to the Metal, a recent solo exhibition of new paintings by Lok, was held at Clima, Milan, May 19 through July 29, 2023. Her work is currently included in the group exhibition X PINK 101 at X Museum, Beijing.*

## MIGUEL ABREU GALLERY

### 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

**2023**

*Closer to the Metal*, Clima, Milan

**2022**

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

**2020**

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

**2019**

*Words Without Skin*, Clima, Milan

**2018**

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

**2017**

*Soft Fact*, Clima, Milan

**2016**

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

### SELECTED GROUP EXHIBITIONS

**2023**

*TANTE CARE COSE*, Clima, Milan

*darling, your head's not right*, curated by Danica Lundy, François Ghebaly, New York

*Anything can pass before the eyes of a person*, Derosia, New York

*X PINK 101*, X Museum, Beijing

*The future perfect will have arrived*, curated by Bridget Mullen, Shulamit Nazarian, Los Angeles

**2022**

*Le Biscuit à Soupe*, High Art, Arles, France  
*Gravity, a proposal*, Sikkema Jenkins & Co., New York

**2021**

*Jahresgaben*, Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany  
*PAGE (NYC) at Petzel*, Petzel Gallery, New York  
*Fifteen Painters*, Andrew Kreps Gallery, New York  
*Regroup Show*, Miguel Abreu Gallery, New York  
*Art Aid For Now*, Benefit Exhibition, Deli Gallery, Brooklyn

**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  
*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

**2018**

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

**2017**

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

**2016**

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

**2015**

*The Crack-Up*, Room East Gallery, New York  
*Floating Point*, Judith Charles Gallery, New York  
*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  
*Networking Tips for Shy People*, Livingston Street, Brooklyn

### 2013

*Crush the Serpent*, The Tea Factory, Brooklyn

*Imperative of Teaching: Studio Pedagogy*, Bergen Community College, Bergen, NJ

### 2011

*Other Possible Titles*, Grizzly Grizzly, Philadelphia

*Rust Melt: New Abstractions from Pittsburgh*, Fe Gallery, Pittsburgh, PA

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

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### 2023

Duray, Dan. "Five Things to Do in New York's Art Scene July 17-22," *Observer*, July 17.

Ghassemitari, Shawn. "Dana Lok Takes You Back to the Basics in Closer to the Metal," *Hypebeast*, June 26.

### 2022

Packard, Cassie. "Dana Lok Beckons the Unknowable," *Hyperallergic*, May 5.

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 Phorofter 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*.