

HEATHER BAUSE RUBINSTEIN

High Violet

May 18 - July 13, 2019

ARTIST RECEPTION

Saturday, May 18, 2 - 4 pm

McClain Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Heather Bause Rubinstein, an artist who divides her studio time between New York, Northern Pennsylvania and Houston, Texas. Bause Rubinstein creates paintings on found materials, as well as hybrid constructions of her own paintings synthesized with a variety of reclaimed domestic textiles. This marks her first solo exhibition at McClain Gallery, and she will be present for the opening artist reception.

Dramatically interweaving gestural abstraction with sewn fabrics, these paintings draw on a diverse range of influences, from the densely-patterned interiors of Édouard Vuillard and Pierre Bonnard to classic abstractions of Joan Mitchell and Cy Twombly, and deconstructive 1970s painters such as Alan Shields and Claude Vierrat. As has been her practice for several years, the artist sources her materials exclusively from thrift stores: utilizing bed sheets, duvets, linens, drapes, crochets, cheap designer scarves, women's business jackets, and other unidentifiable discards, often redolent of the 1970s and 1980s, the period of the artist's childhood. These paintings assimilate painted passages and found textiles, recto and verso surfaces, suspended sweeping brushstrokes, and transparent layers of interwoven texture and thread.

In several of the paintings, the artist introduces an innovative technique into her work by carefully gluing hundreds of tiny sewing clippings and thread remnants onto her bold gestural compositions, coaxing from the painting a luscious dimensionality. What is achieved through the confrontation of all these techniques, materials and influences is a dark lyricism, an emotional art that seeks visual expression of loss, love, trauma, uncertainty, defiance, exhilaration. The exhibition title *High Violet* is taken from a 2010 album by the New York band *The National*: just as their highly-textured music and

poignant lyrics convey a surging melancholy, so do these paintings seek to convey the same uneasy, cinematic-like portent: a storm coming in from the northwest; the eerie sound of wind blowing against the metallic roof and weather making itself known just outside the windows of the artist's studio. And, not unlike an album, Bause Rubinstein's work wavers from seemingly confessional to bursts of self-confidence and resolve. The gathered nuance of these paintings reveals a similar intimacy, a specific nostalgia, and the rhythmic tone of a rich studio practice.

Heather Bause Rubinstein (b.1975 Engelwood, New Jersey) is a Professor of Painting, Art History and Design. Originally from New Jersey, she was raised in Houston, Texas, where she earned both her BFA and MFA in Painting and Art History from the University of Houston, Texas. Her exhibitions include, among others, "The Miraculous: Houston", a public text-based art installation across the entire 600-acre campus at the University of Houston, Texas; "Hard Tension/Soft Surface" at Projects Gallery; and "The Stanford-Binet" at Darke Gallery, Houston, Texas and the installation, "If you sprinkle" at The Art League, Houston, Texas. Her work has been included in numerous group exhibitions in Houston: McClain Gallery, Devin Borden Gallery, Zoya Tommy Gallery, Gallery Homeland, the Blaffer Museum, Clarke and Associates, "Midas Touch"; and throughout the United States: Galleri Urbane, Dallas, Texas; the Diary in Colorado; Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Greece; Pierogi Gallery, New York; Site Brooklyn, New York; and MANA Contemporary in New York, New York. This Spring, Heather moves her studio into the Elizabeth Foundation for the Arts Studio Program, Manhattan, New York.

For images and additional information please contact info@mcclaingallery.com.

Image: Heather Bause Rubinstein, *Forever after days (yellow)*, 2019, pigment on stitched fabrics, 48 x 36 inches

HEATHER BAUSE RUBINSTEIN

1975 Born in Englewood, New Jersey
Lives and works in Houston, Texas and New York, New York

EDUCATION

1993-1997 BFA Painting, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
2015-2015 School of Visual Arts, New York, New York
2013-2016 MFA Painting, University of Houston, Houston, Texas

SOLO EXHIBITIONS

2019 *High Violet*, McClain Gallery, Houston, Texas
2016 *Taut Structures: Heather Bause + Carl Suddath*, Galveston Historical Foundation, Galveston, Texas
2016 *Hard Tension/Soft Surface*: PROJECTS Gallery, Houston, Texas
2012 *The Stanford-Binet: The Modern Authority on Identifying Intellectually Deficient Children*, Darke Gallery, Houston, Texas
2010 *The Birds of Music*, Bering & James, Houston, Texas
2007 *Antecedents*, DesignWorks Gallery, Galveston, Texas

PUBLIC ART/ INSTALLATIONS/CURATORIAL PROJECTS

2018 *Under Erasure*, co-curated with Raphael Rubinstein, Pierogi Gallery, New York, New York
2018 *Visions of Utopia*, co-curated with Raphael Rubinstein, Wald Kim Foundation, New York, New York
2017 *OCCUPY: MANA INSTALLATION*, curated by Phong Bui and Brooklyn Rail Curatorial Staff, MANA Contemporary, New York, New York
2017 *The Miraculous: Houston*, Public Art Text-works at the University of Houston, in coordination with CounterCurrent 17 and the Mitchell Foundation for the Arts, Houston, Texas
2014 *Mural* installation at the Texas Contemporary Art Fair, Houston, Texas
2011-2012 *Wallpaper as Art (installation)*, Art League Houston, Texas
2011 *BOX of Curiosities*, The American Association of Museums Cultural PODs Program, Houston Arts Alliance, Discovery Green, Houston, Texas

GROUP EXHIBITIONS

2019 *MidasTouch*, (with Mark Flood, Dana Frankfort, Paul Kremer, El Franco Lee, Debra Barrera, Grace Deal, Ryan Hawk, Heath Flagtvedt and others), curated by Preston Douglas, Houston, Texas
2018 *Under Erasure*, Pierogi Gallery, New York, New York
Texas Eclectic, Macedonian Museum of Contemporary Art, Thessaloniki, Greece
4 Artists of Texas, Louise Hopkins Underwood Center for the Arts, Lubbock, Texas
Tall Ships, curated by Nick Barbee at Galveston Historical Foundation, Texas
2017 *ON REPEAT* curated by Raphael Rubinstein, Clarke & Associates, Houston, Texas
Primary to Tertiary, Site:Brooklyn, New York, New York
Guest Star, Devin Borden Gallery, Houston, Texas
The BIG Show, curated by Toby Kamps, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas
2016 *Painting, Process, Materials, Textures*, Galleri Urbane, Dallas, Texas

- Bushwick Open Studios*, Brooklyn – traveled to Dublin, Ireland and Glasgow, Scotland
Blaffer Museum, MFA Thesis Exhibition, Houston, Texas
- 2015 *SOA Exhibition*, SVA, New York, New York
Hunting Art Prize, Houston, Texas
SOA Exhibition, Blaffer Museum, Houston, Texas
WHAT IS THE WHAT, University of Houston, Texas
30th Annual Intl Exhibition, University of Texas, Austin, Texas
- 2014 *NEW-Onset*, Gallery HOMELAND, Houston
Apply Pressure Here, PROJECTS Gallery, University of Houston, Texas
Connect Five, 4411 Montrose, Houston, Texas
VSP6, APAMA MACKEY GALLERY, Houston, Texas
Location, Location Location, Blaffer Museum: Window Into Houston, Texas
SOA Exhibition, Blaffer Museum, Houston, Texas
- 2013 *Hullabaloo*, galleryHOMELAND, Houston, Texas
Spooky as Hell, PROJECTS gallery, Houston, Texas
VSP5, APAMA MACKEY GALLERY, Houston, Texas
Texas National, Curated by Peter Selz, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas
- 2012 *In Plain Sight*, McClain Gallery, Houston, Texas
Zoya Tommy, Houston, Texas
Texas National, Curated by Dave Hickey, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas
Bike Art, The Dairy, Boulder, Colorado
Southern Open, Acadiana Center for the Arts. Curated by Rene Barilleaux, McNay Museum of Art
Mini-Art, Art League Houston, Texas
Sur Papier, Yvonamor Palix, Houston, Texas
- 2011 *The BIG Show*, Lawndale Art Center, Curated by Larissa Harris, Houston, Texas
Texas National, Curated by James Drake, Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas
The Empty BOX, BOX13 Artspace, Houston, Texas
- 2010 *Annual Exhibition*, Curated by Jim Edwards, Live Oak Art Center, Columbus, Texas
Member Exhibition, BOX 13 Artspace, Houston
- 2009 *Poissant Gallery*, Houston, Texas
The BIG Show, Curated by Laura Fried, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas
Rescued: Works that survived IKE, DesignWorks Gallery, Galveston, Texas
- 2007 *The BIG Show*, Curated by Rita Gonzalez, Lawndale Art Center, Houston, Texas

WRITING/PUBLISHING

- 2019 "The Materiality of Written Language: Joe Fyfe at Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York."
Two Coats of Paint, January 26.
- 2018 *Under Erasure*. Designed and published artist's book, catalog for exhibition at Pierogi Gallery, New York.
- 2016 *ON REPEAT*. Designed and published artist's book, catalog for exhibition at Clarke and Associates, Houston, Texas.
- 2016 "Review: David Aylsworth's 'Sweet sweet sweet sweet sweet tea'." *Gulf Coast Journal*, October 10.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- 2019 Heinrich, Will. "Under Erasure." *New York Times*, January 23.
 Corwin, William. "Under Erasure." *Brooklyn Rail*, February 5.
 DeCagna, Gina. "Erasure as aesthetic principle at Pierogi." *Two Coats of Paint*, January 15.
- 2018 Molon, Dominic (Juror). *New American Paintings*, Issue # 137.

- 2017 Kinney, Morgan. "Behold 'On Repeat,' Over and Over and Over Again." *Houstonia*, October.
 Fletcher, Abner. "Art Exhibit Showcases Patterns 'On Repeat,'" (Interview with Heather Bause and Chris Cascio.) *Houston Public Media*, October 5.
 De la Garza, Nathalie. "On Repeat." *Houston Press*.
 Zastudil, Nancy. "Hiding in Plain Sight: CounterCurrent Artists Reveal Stories throughout Houston." *Arts + Culture TX*, April.
 Tubbs, Sara. "Obscure and Exposed: Art Installation Uses UH Campus as Canvas." *uh.edu*, April 11.
- 2013 Caceres, Flo. "A Look Into 'The Miraculous' In Houston'." *The Odyssey Online*, April 18.
 Mag Uidhir, Christy. "The Epistemic Abuse of Pictorial Caricature." *American Philosophical Quarterly*, January.
- 2012 Glentzer, Molly. "Op to it: art that tricks the eyes." *Houston Chronicle*, October 3.
 Klaasmeyer, Kelly. "In Plain Sight." *Houston Press*, October 3.
 Caplinger, Hesse. "In Plain Sight at McClain Gallery." *Glasstire.com*, September 30.
 Martin, Elliot Zooey. "Taking a Bow and Sharing the Stage." *Arts + Culture Magazine*, September 24.
 Wetmore, Evan. "This Weekend in Art." *Modern Luxury*, January 12.
 Camplin, Todd. "Heather Bause." *Modern Houston*, February.
 Boyd, Robert. "Heather Bause tests your IQ." *The Great God Pan is Dead*, February
- 2011 Liscum, Dean. "Heather Bause does bathrooms." *The Great God Pan is Dead*, September 15.
- 2010 Sweeten, Valerie. "Time with son..." *Houston Chronicle*, March.
- 2007 Keppler, Nick. "There's some strange fruit growing." *Houston Press*, April.
- 2003 Simon, Lisa. "Night & Day: This week's Picks." *Houston Press*, v. 13, no. 46, November 13.

AWARDS and HONORS

Blain, LaRuth International Endowment Fund for the Arts
 Hohlt-Wich Endowment Fund for the Arts
 Hunting Prize Finalist
 First Prize @ The Dairy, Boulder, Colorado
 American Advertising Award, Best Website of the Year, Mario Batali.com
 National Graphic Design Award, Communication Design, AIM Mutual Funds

McCLAIN
GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

IKAT study, 2018

pigment on bed sheet

60 x 80 inches unstretched

(HBa-18)

\$10,000

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

Let's go wait out in the fields with the ones we love (shower), 2019

pigment on shower curtain

64 x 64 inches

(HBa-7)

\$8,000

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Heather Bause Rubinstein

Slow show, 2019

pigment on found material, with sewing clippings, thread remnants

24 x 18 inches

(HBa-17)

\$2,500

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

All of my thoughts of you (fuzzbomb), 2019

pigment on found material, with sewing clippings, thread remnants

48 x 83 inches

(HBa-11)

\$9,000

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

High Violet, 2019

pigment on found material, with sewing clippings, thread remnants

48 x 55 inches

(HBa-13)

\$6,500

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Heather Bause Rubinstein

She's a dreamer (purple), 2019

pigment stained on transparent drape material, stitched with crochet and upholstery fabric

60 x 54 inches

(HBa-8)

\$7,000

McCLAIN
GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

I don't want to get over you, 2019

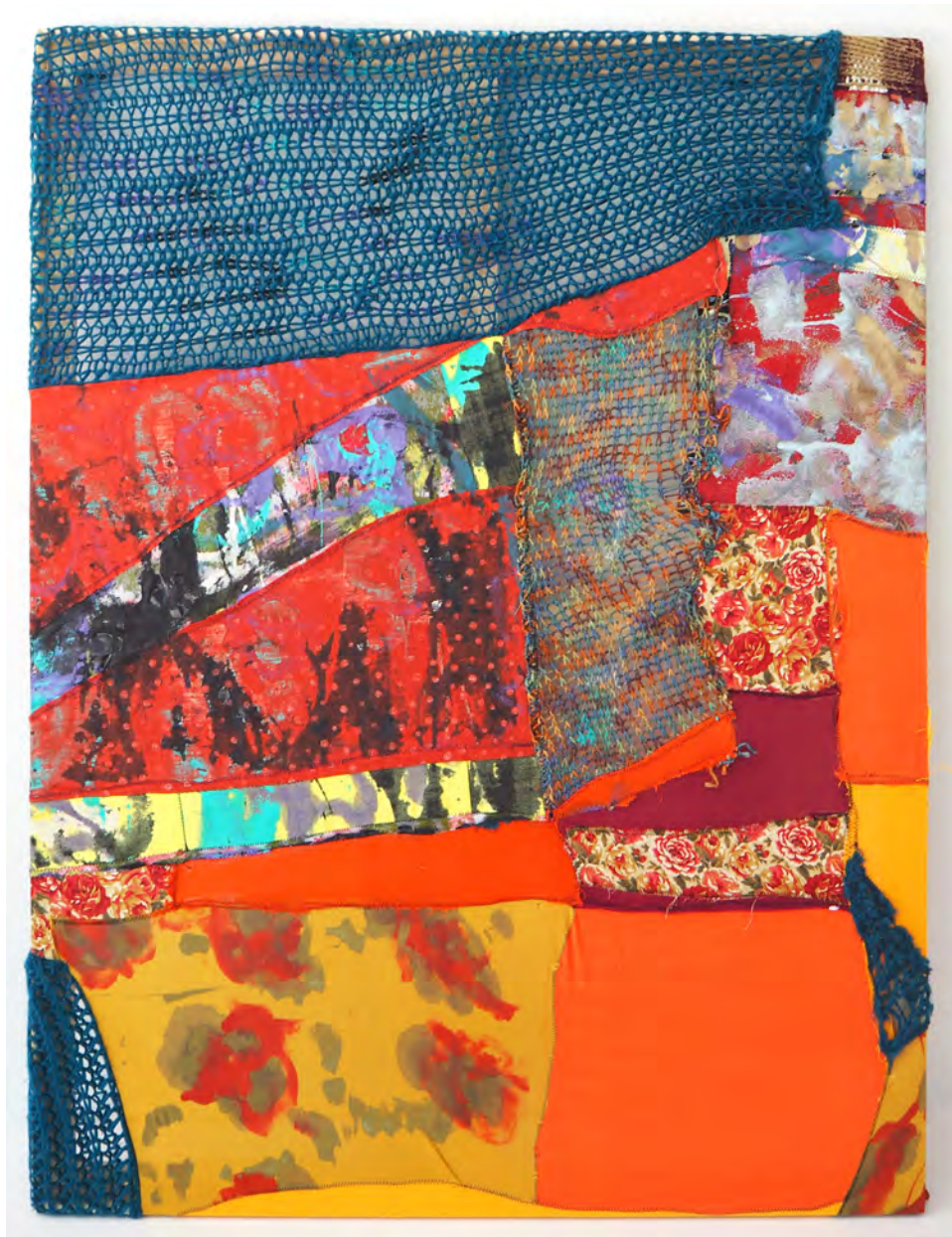
pigment on silk pillowcase with textiles

44 x 36 inches

(HBa-14)

\$5,500

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein
Forever after days (yellow), 2019
pigment on stitched fabrics
48 x 36 inches
(HBa-4)
\$5,500

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein
It's a subway day (plots), 2019
pigment on material, stitched
44 x 30 inches
(HBa-2)
\$5,000

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

Lemonworld (the F), 2019

pigment on stitched fabric with textiles

44 x 30 inches

(HBa-15)

\$5,000

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

I've always been a delicate man (fuzz), 2019

pigment, sewing clippings, thread remnants, textiles, stitched

54 x 40 inches

(HBa-5)

\$6,000

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

Young Blue Bodies (pillowcase), 2019

pigment on bed sheet, stitched with textiles

48 x 58 inches

(HBa-6)

\$6,500

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Heather Bause Rubinstein

Between everything, yourself and home, 2019
pigment on found material, stitched with textiles

84 x 52 inches

(HBa-12)

\$9,000

McCLAIN
GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

Orange poppies, 2019

pigment on stitched fabric with textiles

41 x 36 inches

(HBa-16)

\$4,500

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

There is no leaving New York, 2019

pigment on bed sheet, stiched with textiles

60 x 36 inches

(HBa-3)

\$6,000

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GALLERY



Heather Bause Rubinstein

Pink Rabbit, 2019

pigment stained, drawn on bed sheet with stitched textiles

72 x 84 inches

(HBa-9)

\$14,000

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Heather Bause Rubinstein

I was solid gold (I was in the fight), 2019
pigment on bed sheet, stitched with textiles

84 x 96 inches

(HBa-10)

\$14,000