

schmick

contemporary

painting **Desires**

maxime **BANKS** **sophia** **HEWSON**

TIM **phillips** **KANSAS** **smeaton**

samuel **QUINTEROS**

March 29-April 13

The visible is only a placeholder for real desire. [1]

According to Jacques Lacan, human desire is not a simple expression of our natural instincts, but rather a complex, symbolic process that is shaped by the social and cultural contexts in which we live. At the heart of Lacan's theory is the idea that we are fundamentally incomplete beings, and that this sense of lack is what drives us to seek out the objects of our desire. 'Lack' in this case, is not simply a physical or material absence, but a deeper, more fundamental sense of incompleteness that is rooted in our being.

The idea of lack as a kind of 'active deficit' was frequently referenced in discussions between the curator and artists in *Painting Desires*. Sophia proposes that an innate sense of lack resides in the medium of painting itself, while Tim underscores this idea suggesting that painting can elicit unfulfilled desire because all paintings are about the absence of the thing they're depicting. Kansas speaks to the vicarious and sensual pleasures of painting as inherent with a certain 'pull' or craving. Maxime describes an 'existential spiritual yearning', while Samuel points to desire's symbolic and mythological possibilities as replacement settings for the 'real'. These perspectives highlight desire as a concept and catalyst for making.

Freud intellectualised desire from a position of patriarchal privilege. Nonetheless, his theory of desire as a central aspect of human psychology still resonates today. He posited that making art can function as a form of sublimation or wish fulfilment that allows the artist to channel their desires and impulses into a creative form. In this context, *Painting Desires* considers the proposition of painting as both subject/object, and verb/noun, i.e., the artists are painting desires, but also, could painting itself desire? and if so, what would be the object of its desire? Informed by this thought experiment, the exhibition foregrounds diverse interpretations of desire and the materiality of painting, exploring desire's restlessness, longing and delayed or mediated fulfilment.

Chelsea Lehmann, 2023

[1] Richard Powers, *The Overstory* (e-pub), p. 246

schmick contemporary: UPSTAIRS level 2 706 George st, Chinatown
e:schmickcontemporary@gmail.com

paintingDesires

works list (left to right)

Kansas Smeaton

Hand with Grapes
2023, oil on canvas
40.6 x 35.5cm
Price upon enquiry
Courtesy COMA gallery

Maxime Banks

Afronaut Anatomy
Autoethnography Archives:
I am the Universe, 2022
Mixed media, artist's hair, collage
on paper
42 x 29.7cm
Price upon enquiry

Maxime Banks

Afronaut Anatomy
Autoethnography Archives:
Quantum Blackness
Spacetime Orbits as
Coordinates of Being (#2),
2021, Mixed media, artist's
hair on paper,
42 x 29.7cm
Price upon enquiry

Maxime Banks

Afronaut Anatomy
Autoethnography Archives:
Celestial Constellations
in the Cosmos Imagination
2022, Mixed media,
artist's hair, collage on paper
42 x 29.7cm
Price upon enquiry

Samuel Quinteros

Three Spectral Nymphs
with Fruits, 2023
oil on linen
61 x 45.7cm
\$4500

Samuel Quinteros

Spectral Nymph with
Blue Pomegranate
2023, oil on linen
61 x 45.7cm
\$4500

Tim Phillips

We Have Always Lived
in the Castle, 2019
oil on gesso board
70 x 70cm
\$1000
*Sale condition

Tim Phillips

Dear Diary
2021-22
oil on linen
38.5 x 46cm
\$850
*Sale condition

Kansas Smeaton

Gloved Hand with Cherry
2023, oil on canvas
40.6 x 35.5cm
Price upon enquiry
Courtesy COMA gallery

Sophie Whitney Hewson

Untitled (Lockdown Baby)
2022, oil on canvas
129 x 84cm
\$4800
Courtesy MARS gallery

Maxime Banks

All the Babies I Lost
in Outer Space Ovulating from my
Head, 2018
Mixed media on paper
29.8 x 20.9cm
Price upon enquiry

*Artwork sales subject to buyer agreement to loan the work to the artist in late 2023 for the duration of a PhD Graduating Exhibition at the expense of the artist.

schmick contemporary: UPSTAIRS level 2 706 George st, Chinatown
e:schmickcontemporary@gmail.com