

Women on Pause: 'The Future is Elsewhere (If it Breaks Your Heart)' by Heidi Hahn at Jack Hanley, New York

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The Future is Elsewhere (If it Breaks Your Heart) # 8 by Heidi Hahn
(Jack Hanley, New York)

Jack Hanley presents Heidi Hahn's second solo exhibition with the gallery titled, *The Future is Elsewhere (If it Breaks Your Heart)*.

Hahn, for the exhibition, continues her investigation with the traditional concerns in her figurative painting practices while she creates environments of psychological landscapes in female mind and body. Her compositions in the works presented and the materiality of the paint she uses in them, with its rich and translucent layers applied multiple times, enhance the depth of her works, thus, the females' interior lives showcased in the finely crafted narratives achieves vibrance.

The women showcased in the new body of works presented by the artist appear to be in transit, at times active or passive, either seen walking or waiting, sometimes reading or looking at their phone, all of them on the verge of their new destinations or chapters. The characters she portrays to be in profile, which helps her to conjure up a hieroglyphic stance which renders the narrative of the story to lapse in time. What she leaves unsaid is the information of where they are coming from or where they are off to, what they seem to be waiting for, or what causes carry them to be in the place where they are. These women she portrays are almost without any history or future, uncertain is their situations and unconcerned is their background. The portraiture of the faces that she hides the details of or even if she leaves them out, she manipulates them to be simplified into disguised masks, illuminate their anonymity. The characters carry the bodies to be sinuous and fluid which in turn assimilates to the flat backgrounds they have been portrayed upon. The artist shapes her characters through distinctive and delimitative lines and they appear to be entirely aware of their allocated parts in the society yet they manage to be unconcerned with any judgments and expectations.

The introspective she portrays with her new body of work, *The Future is Elsewhere (If it Breaks Your Heart)* of women on a voyage towards their respective futures will be on view from October 12 through November 12, 2017 at Jack Hanley Gallery, 327 Broome Street, New York, NY 10002.

327 Broome St.
New York, NY 10002
(646) 918 6824