

ALPHABET CITY
GRAHAM HAMILTON
April 14 – May 25, 2019

Parker Gallery is pleased to present a solo exhibition of recent paintings by Graham Hamilton. The exhibition includes nine works on various surfaces: plywood, laminated panel, canvas and medium-density fiberboard, spanning the last three years of the artist's production. Hamilton is based in New York, NY and is currently enrolled at the Städelschule in Frankfurt, Germany. This is the artist's first exhibition on the West Coast.

The title of the exhibition describes a city of letters. The city, like a sentence, is made up of fragments. Hamilton's paintings are individual fragments that compose a sentence, describing the space around a specific time. Cut flowers are a way of memorializing a moment. A painting of those flowers provides another index; like the shadow of that thing. Time is interrupted by combining and layering these moments of translation into a single image. The painted walls punctuate the space, with colors cribbed from the Museum of Fine Arts Houston.

Hamilton considers painting an empathetic medium. It is a way to think about the images and abstractions we create and overlay onto our experience. *Bonnard Tower* began with a page ripped from a book: a reproduction of Odilon Redon's portrait of the painter Pierre Bonnard. Beyond the portrait, Hamilton systemically covered the surface in checkerboard and grid patterns, each square defining itself by its neighbor. This formal pattern mimics the difference and similarity between the three authors. Whose expression are we looking at: Bonnard's, Redon's, Hamilton's? As Hamilton constructs the image, he records time with a system of mark-making. The pattern is reminiscent of a calendar and quantifies the act of making as a collection of strokes.

Elsewhere, Hamilton focuses on hands as the moment of contact between the interior self and the outside world. This intimate connection appears in *Decay*, rendered as a solid silhouette traced around one of the artist's hands and another sketched roughly in graphite. Each mark feels improvised and impermanent, attempting to describe the self and the other, at the point where they meet. *Independence Day* gathers multiple moments together, charting the space around a period of time. The diaristic narrative is told in independent images of various orientation. We can only grasp fragments at a time, reassembling them into different sequences or phrases, like alphabet soup.

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Graham Hamilton (b. 1988, Houston, TX, currently lives and works in Frankfurt, Germany). Solo exhibitions include *Index*, Babba Yaga, Hudson, NY (2018), *Devotion*, False Flag, New York, NY (2018) and *Grenadine*, 247365, New York, NY (2015). Select group exhibitions include *New American*, Jeffrey Stark, New York, NY (2018), *Ghost of Future Past*, *Present House*, ZAX, New York, NY (2016), *I Saw the Earth Broken like a Broken Egg*, Christian Berst, New York, NY (2015), *Pardon Our Appearance*, 247365, New York, NY (2015), *Fissure*, *Fog*, SIGNAL, Brooklyn, NY (2015), *Proanoia*, VIOLET'S CAFE, Brooklyn, NY (2014), *That's the Neighbor*, *Always Dressing these Boulders in the Yard*, curated by Torey Thornton, Suzanne Geiss Co., New York, NY (2014), *11/16/13*, VIOLET'S CAFE, Brooklyn, NY (2013) and *Finding Time*, The Palisades, curated by Nina Culotta Long Island City, NY (2011).