

*galerie frank elbaz.*

## *Emerging, Submerging, Reemerging*

Stephane Henry, Sheila Hicks, Yasuhisa Kohyama and Robert Storr

March 16 - May 25, 2024

### Emerging, Submerging, Reemerging: Four Journeys

galerie frank elbaz is pleased to announce *Emerging, Submerging, Reemerging*, featuring paintings and sculpture by Yasuhisa Kohyama, Robert Storr, Sheila Hicks and Stéphane Henry. Each artist is driven by an unquenchable conviction to investigate through direct, physical engagement with materials. Imagination and the act of making is a way of puzzling things out. Similar to the vicissitudes of life, each persists and evolves, emerging, submerging, and reemerging.

The Shigaraki ceramic artist Yasuhisa Kohyama mines clay's potential. He pulls apart mounds of earth, builds it up, sculpts it, cuts it, incises it, and ultimately fires it. His highly refined approach to creating unglazed, sensual forms is about extending traditions rather than a radical departure. The work's final transformation is determined by placement of the vessels inside the kiln and the intense heat of the wood-burning process. These elements of chance are collaborators in Kohyama's perpetual honing of his craft in search for ever more powerful, elegant sculpture.

Paintings by Robert Storr are intimate inquiries into shape, color and grid templates. Experimenting with the qualities of different paints, he investigates subtle fluctuations in placement and execution of similar images and layering of blocks of color. Hard-edge boundaries and marks soften into textured, painterly statements with rapid improvisations using looser brushstrokes and fast-drying paint. He chooses not to title his works to avoid influencing the viewer's perception.

Sheila Hicks leverages the inexhaustible possibilities of fiber and color. Her constant explorations with pliable lines and linear thinking surprise and delight. How do you negotiate and connect lines? Oftentimes, the investigations involve taking the material into space or sculpting soft masses of fiber before it is turned into a linear, weavable element. The seductive physicality and familiarity of humble threads beckon one to get closer much like a welcoming hand.

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Stéphane Henry creates evocative universes of material transformations. Establishing rigorous parameters, he layers mixtures of minerals, colors, chemicals and other materials that interact and morph into sculptural records of movement. These compressed fragments of alchemy appear simultaneously microscopic and cosmic. Despite the artist's experiments with his capacity to control the process, he benefits from the inevitable accidents that occur along the way enabling new environments to emerge.

When showing these four artists' work in proximity, the gallery opens the door to discovery. Their art are provocations, invitations to look, compare and to see. As with most abstraction, interpretations are open ended, one suggestion leading to something else. Sometimes, we must lose ourselves (to find ourselves).

*Enlivening the dialogue with movement, Martha Graham-trained dancer Margaux Steiner will perform on opening night, March 16.*

Cara McCarty  
Paris, March 2024

Dancers: Margaux Steiner and Axel Gérard  
Music composer: Arthur Lévy