

**Heather Day: Ricochet**

**September 12 – October 24, 2020**

**Gallery hours by appointment: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm**

Diane Rosenstein Gallery is pleased to announce *Heather Day: Ricochet* -- a solo exhibition of paintings and works on paper by the Bay Area-based artist. This is her first solo exhibition in Los Angeles.

Heather Day makes abstract paintings comprised of scraped, smeared, and flooded pools of pigment. The compulsive energy of her work oscillates between rehearsed abandon and careful restraint. Her encompassing murals, large canvases, and intimate drawings study the mechanisms of sensory perception — mining what happens when the body interprets a sound as a texture, or a scent as a color.

The title of the exhibition – *Ricochet* – refers to the artist’s process of navigating her compositions as one mark leads to the next, without a predestined resolution. The title is also a metaphor for the global chain of reactions in our natural environment, social and cultural space, and intuitive relationships with each other. This body of work is a new chapter in her practice, beginning with the monumental diptych *Fever Dream* (2020), which serves as the bridge. The pairing of the two canvases recalls the seam of her sketchbook; and anticipates the new stitched paintings in this exhibition, such as *Space Between* (2020) which she describes as a “mind map.”

Earlier this spring, during the onset of the pandemic, the artist left San Francisco for Joshua Tree and was surrounded by the quiet and solitude of the desert environment. Here amid the desert spring, she was inspired by the wildflower super bloom and new colors seeped into these new paintings.

The paintings in this exhibition were created during a transformative year. Like many artists who have seen their exhibitions canceled or closed, Day’s first solo museum show was closed early due to the pandemic. She feels so much gratitude and appreciation that the show was seen in person, if only for a few weeks. Since then, she has taken refuge in her studio – in the physical and emotional space that allows quiet and experimentation.

The artist shared her personal statement, and writes:

“Ricochet examines the boundaries of intention, exploring the opposing forces of control and chaos in my practice which carry a painting towards its endpoint.

A specific piece from my previous exhibit at Fort Wayne Museum of Art became a seed for this show. It was a painting that wasn’t meant to be a painting at all. I was using a test

canvas to rehearse marks before committing them to another canvas. Maybe if I had cast these marks anticipating them as final, they would look different. But, in the safety of rehearsal I found that these marks expressed themselves clearly without having gone through conscious or subconscious filters. They lived somewhere I couldn't place a narrowing value judgement on them.

In my new work, these rehearsed marks live in the same pictorial plane as the final compositions they contribute to, almost like a map key. The compositions entertain ideas of repetition as it relates to the process of painting. Fast paced marks mirror and mimic each other from opposite sides of a canvas. The seams formed by canvases I've stitched together create unlikely combinations that demand to be resolved. Rehearsed, nomadic lines stem outward from "mind maps" I used to trace while on roadtrips growing up. These factors contribute to the visual vernacular of the work.

The instant the medium I use to express a marking leaves my brush, or my paint can, the element of control dissipates and revolves into a spectrum of chaos, like a stone that hits a pane of still water before skipping over the ripples it creates."

*Heather Day: Ricochet* will be on view to the public from September 12 – October 24, 2020. The gallery is open by appointment only.

**Heather Day (USA, b. 1989)** is a painter and printmaker based in California. Her solo exhibition, *Woolgatherers: New Paintings by Heather Day* was presented this spring at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art (FWMOA), Indiana. Day was an artist-in-residence at The Vermont Studio Center (2019) and Macedonia Institute (2018), NY; and received her BFA from The Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA) in 2012. Heather Day also creates large scale virtual and augmented reality works that bridge the gap between art and technology. Her murals have been presented in institutional and public spaces, including The Urban Institute for Contemporary Art, Grand Rapids, MI and FWMOA. Her paintings have also been shown at MASS MoCA (2018); and she has received solo and two-person exhibitions with Joshua Liner Gallery, NYC, Royale Projects, Los Angeles, and Hashimoto Contemporary, San Francisco. The artist lives and works in San Francisco.

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