



VANESSA PRAGER: PORTRAITS

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

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FEBRUARY 14 - APRIL 1, 2023

Diane Rosenstein is pleased to present *Portraits*, an exhibition of recent paintings by Los Angeles-based artist Vanessa Prager. This installation consists of fifteen oil paintings that depict individuals in a profound state of metamorphosis.

In her mythic portraits, Prager works between still life and classicism to depict subjects that are a hybrid of floral life and human beings.

This is Prager's second solo exhibition with Diane Rosenstein Gallery.

Diane Rosenstein Gallery
831 N. Highland Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90038

The Fountain, 2023
Oil on canvas
96 x 72 inches
243.8 x 182.8 cm
(VPR139)



Grand Exit, 2023
Oil on canvas
96 x 72 inches
243.8 x 182.8 cm
(VPR152)



In Ovid's *Metamorphosis* and most Greek mythology, the distinction between a plant and person was always in flux. The pantheon depicted in Prager's portraits are 'featureless' yet imbued with character and personality. Are the flowers 'the mask' or the true face?

Prager's new exhibition offers complex portraits that speak to our deepest instincts for transformation and renewal. They offer an omniscience, buried deep within each flower, of the cycles of life. Regarding us directly, with a touch of *memento mori*, they say: *Life is in session*.



The Card Player, 2023
Oil on canvas (diptych)
72 x 192 inches
182.8 x 487.7 cm
(VPR149)



Vanessa Prager, *The Card Player*, 2023



Woman After Dark, 2023
Oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches
182.8 x 243.8 cm
(VPR151)

The sitters are turned towards us, their attention focused in our direction.

Like Florentine portraits of women in the 15th century, some are draped in pearls or gold chains or chokers. While some wear simple tops that expose their necks, others have their 'bodies' fully painted with bold patterns such that a beguiling transformation takes place – their human form takes on the appearance of a vessel or jug or bottle.

The figure becomes a floral still life.



Gilded Outlines, 2023
Oil on canvas
72 x 96 inches
182.8 x 243.8 cm
(VPR153)

Visit of the Sun, 2023
Oil on canvas
72 x 48 inches
182.8 x 122 cm
(VPR140)



Dancing in the Moonlight, 2023
Oil on panel
48 x 48 inches
122 x 122 cm
(VPR141)





Reflection at Sunrise, 2023
Oil on canvas
48 x 48 inches
122 x 122 cm
(VPR150)



Golden Hour, 2023
Oil on canvas
48 x 48 inches
122 x 122 cm
(VPR142)

Suspended with Pearls, 2023
Oil on panel
48 x 36 inches
122 x 91.4 cm
(VPR143)



The Triumph, 2023
Oil on panel
48 x 36 inches
122 x 91.4 cm
(VPR145)

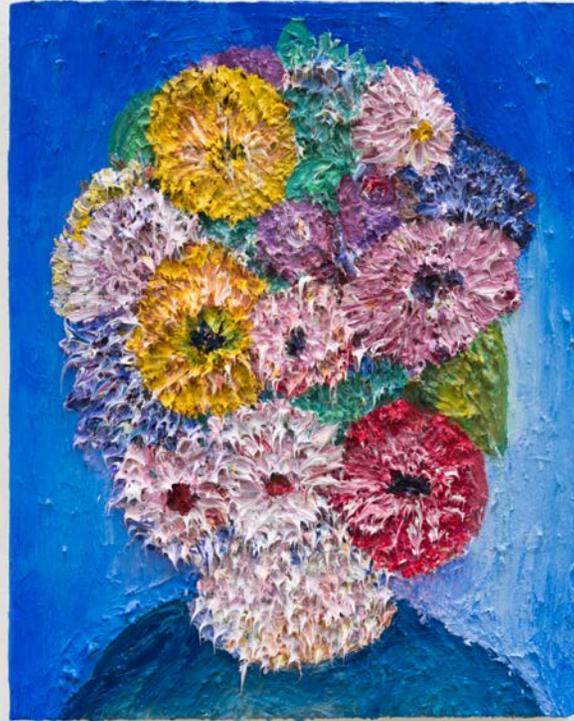


Silhouette in Yellow, 2023
Oil on panel
48 x 36 inches
122 x 91.4 cm
(VPR144)

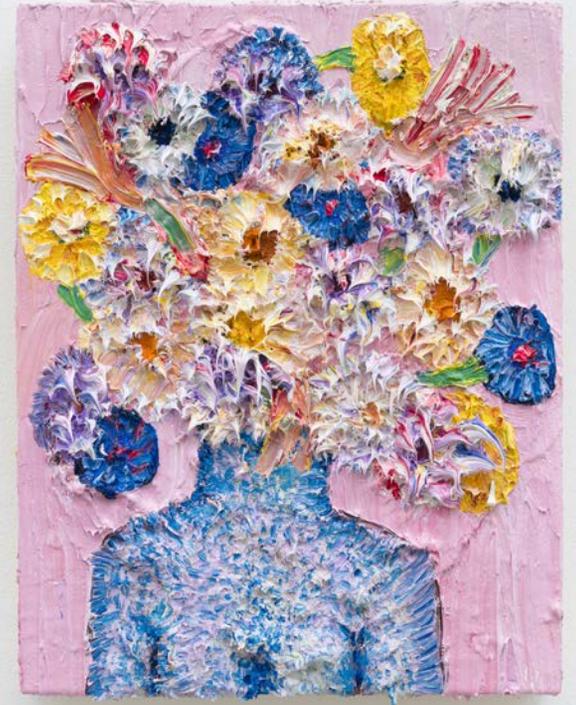




Laughing in Place, 2023
Oil on panel
20 x 16 inches
50.8 x 40.6 cm
(VPR146)



Light of Tomorrow, 2023
Oil on panel
20 x 16 inches
50.8 x 40.6 cm
(VPR147)



Balance of Light, 2023
Oil on panel
14 x 11 inches
35.5 x 28 cm
(VPR148)



VANESSA PRAGER

Vanessa Prager (b. 1984, Los Angeles) is a self-taught artist who is known for her elaborate impasto painting technique that creates thickly layered and sculptural surfaces. Her abstract paintings explore themes of identity, self-reflection, and the human condition in the 21st century.

Prager received a solo show, *Static*, with Diane Rosenstein, Los Angeles, in 2021. Other solo presentations include those at Kristin Hjellegjerde, Berlin (2019) and London (2018); The Hole, New York (2018, 2016); Richard Heller, Santa Monica (2017); and Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco (2012).

The artist's work has also been featured in group exhibitions such as *The Street and The Shop*, Curated by Michael Slenske, Venice, CA (2022) and Los Angeles (2021); *Go Figure!*, Curated by Beth Rudin DeWoody, Eric Firestone Gallery, East Hampton, NY (2019); *Extra*, The Hole, New York (2018); *How They Ran, Over The Influence*, Los Angeles (2018); *Sweet Cheeks, Big Pictures*, Los Angeles (2018); Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles (2017); *Russian Doll*, M+B Gallery, Los Angeles (2015); *In the Heat of the Night*, Castor Gallery, New York (2015); *The Blob*, Richard Heller Gallery, Los Angeles (2015); *Me and Benjamin*, Galerie Xippas, Paris (2014); *Boy + Girl*, The Salon at Automatic Sweat, Los Angeles (2014); *Seven Sisters*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, San Francisco (2013); *Good Intentions*, Subliminal Projects Gallery, Los Angeles (2013); *Portrait of A Generation*, The Hole, New York (2012); *High Five*, New Image Art, Los Angeles (2012); *MOCA Fresh*, MOCA Grand Avenue, Los Angeles (2012); *Incognito*, ICA/Santa Monica Museum of Art, Los Angeles (2012); *California Girls*, Katherine Cone Gallery, Los Angeles (2012); *Girls, girls, girls*, Jenkins Johnson Gallery, New York (2011); *Drawn*, Subliminal Projects, Los Angeles (2011); *Wreck the Walls*, Subliminal Projects Gallery, Los Angeles (2010); *The Big Show*, Silas Marder Gallery, New York (2009); *Under the Influence*, Gallery 1988, Los Angeles (2009); and *Crazy for Cult*, Gallery 1988, Los Angeles (2008).

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Portrait of the artist by Cara Robbins

