

## DIANE ROSENSTEIN

### **Sarah Awad: Gate Paintings**

September 12 – October 10, 2015

Gallery Hours: Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 – 6:00 pm

Opening: Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein is pleased to announce *Gate Paintings*, a solo exhibition by Los Angeles-based artist Sarah Awad. This is the artist's second solo show with the gallery.

Sarah Awad re-examines the traditions of art history, and like her previous series of female nudes, these "gate" paintings are a meditation on the epic tradition of decorative patterns in painting. Without fully escaping the act of 'drawing' in painting, her energetic and gestural works are also a compelling argument for the power of form and edge.

*Sarah Awad: Gate Paintings* deploys architectural and compositional motifs of both ornamental and metaphoric gates as points of entry into the picture plane. Awad here constructs a compelling formal substitute for 'the figure': her gate paintings (some with literal references and some abstracted) expand our field of vision, inviting the viewer to look at and look through simultaneously. This new series of abstract compositions is a distinct progression in the painting concerns Awad has been working with for the past two years: how to create a new kind of space in a painting, through the negotiation of color, line and form.

**Sarah Awad** (USA, b. 1981) received her BFA from Art Center College of Design, Pasadena, CA (2007), and an MFA from UCLA (2011). Recent solo exhibitions include *The Women* (2013) at Diane Rosenstein, Los Angeles and *Transference and Speculation* (2012) at James Harris Gallery, Seattle, Washington. Awad has been included in important group shows including: *Rogue Wave '13 (15 Artists From Los Angeles)* at L.A. Louver Gallery, Venice, CA; *Angels With Dirty Faces* (curated by Artra Curatorial), at Hilger Contemporary, in Vienna, Austria; *At First You Don't Succeed* (curated by Robert Wechsler), at CCS Gallery, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA; and *Paradox Maintenance Technicians* at the Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA. Sarah Awad lives and works in Los Angeles, California.