

DIANE ROSENSTEIN GALLERY

Jason Stopa: Garden of Music
May 20 – July 1, 2023

Opening Reception: Saturday, May 20 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Diane Rosenstein is pleased to present *Garden of Music*, a solo exhibition of new, graphic abstract paintings by Jason Stopa. The artist paints archetypal forms with a lively color system that investigates notions of progress and utopia. This is Stopa's first solo exhibition with Diane Rosenstein Gallery.

The exhibition takes inspiration from Bob Thompson's painting "Garden of Music," completed in 1960. Thompson's painting depicts an idyllic, pastoral landscape with nude figures playing instruments. Color used here is saturated and spatial. Stopa is directly tied to the historical lineage of Thompson through his use of buoyant mark making and bright, thin washes.

Jason Stopa deconstructs shapes of modern architectural sites that occupy historical relationships to progress. He states, " I see my motifs as structures that rest on lattice, sit on fences, and recline on slopes." His paintings utilize the grid as an organizational logic by upholding rhythmic and playful repetition – allowing his mirroring of gestures to create a syntax. Brushstrokes are individually legible but accumulate to fill out gesturally articulated geometric structures. Each painting vibrates as if air - as well as light - were passing through the composition, animating it.

Matisse's Chapel of the Rosary in Vence and Sun Ra's house in Philadelphia are specific architectural sites referenced in Stopa's paintings. The paintings *Vence Chapel in Spring* (2023) and *The House of Sun Ra* (2023) point towards possible Utopian futures. The geometry of each painting contrasts with the geometry of contemporary corporate architecture.

Stopa's abstract painting language is both critical of our notions of progress and also opens up a horizon of possibilities. This horizon is what Edouard Glissant - the French writer, poet, and philosopher - would call 'creolization,' and in this way, Stopa's work also reflects his identity as a mixed man. In a time of ecological crisis and political polarization, envisioning a new, possible world is at the epicenter of his paintings.

A full color catalogue with an essay by Alex Bacon accompanies the exhibition.

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Jason Stopa (USA, b. 1983) is a painter and writer living in Brooklyn. He received his BFA from the Indiana University Bloomington and his MFA from Pratt Institute in NYC. Recent solo exhibitions include *Joy Labyrinth* at Morgan Lehman, NYC (2021) and *Hanging Gardens* at Atelier W Pantin, France (2019). Group exhibitions include *Beyond the Black Hole, The Pit, Palm Springs* (2022), *Shelter From the Storm*, Diane Rosenstein Gallery, Los Angeles (2022), *Wayne Thiebaud Influencer: A New Generation*, at Manetti Shrem Museum of Art at UC Davis, CA (2021), *Light* (curated by Rico Gatson) at Miles McEnery Gallery in NYC (2021), *What's It All About* at Jenkins Johnson Projects in Brooklyn (2021). Stopa teaches at Pratt Institute and is a contributing writer to *Hyperallergic*, *Momus*, and *artcritical*, among other art journals.