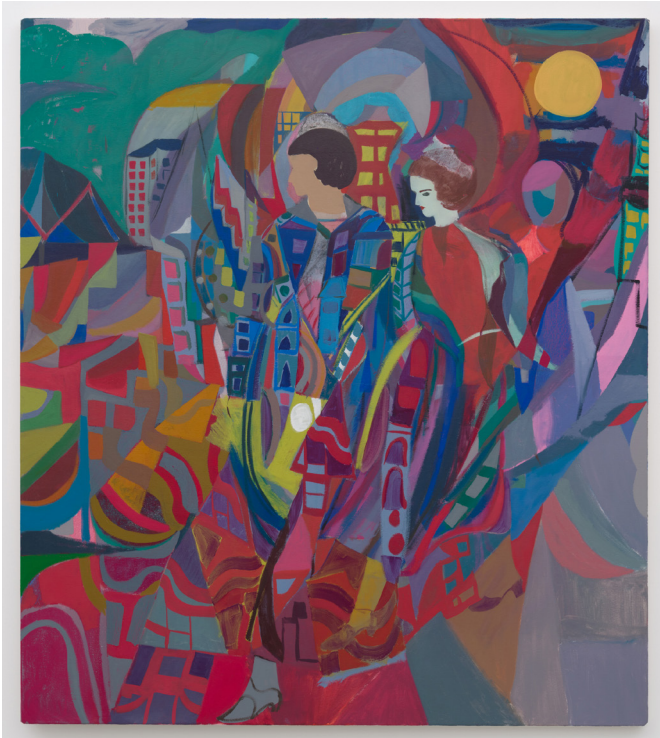


ARTFORUM

“Jackie Gendel,” *Artforum*, *Art Guide*, July 1, 2024.



Jackie Gendel
The Architect's Daughters II, 2024
Oil on canvas
54 x 48 in
137.2 x 121.9 cm

ARTFORUM MUST SEE: “The Architect’s Daughters,” an exhibition of new paintings by Jackie Gendel. “The Architect’s Daughters” is Providence-based artist Jackie Gendel’s first solo show at Philip Martin Gallery.

Jackie Gendel’s paintings are an expressive world of color, pattern and materiality. Gendel’s loose brushwork activates a picture in which the eye constantly moves, navigating an interlocking vibrant pictorial space that bends like a reed before the viewer’s gaze. “I work in staircases,” Jackie Gendel notes, quoting French author Paul Virilio. The interwoven threads in Gendel’s work - pictorial and narrative - welcome as well as conceal.

Working with an eye towards both art history and contemporary visual culture, the loose, interpretative feeling of Gendel’s paintings not only engages our sense of the world today, but also reminds us of pieces by major Modernists such as Sonia Delaunay, Hannah Höch, Sophie Taeuber-Arp, Lyubov Popova and Varvara Stepanova. These artists rejected the masculine markings of Modernism as well as many assumed hierarchical distinctions between design and fine arts that still resonate in our culture today, particularly when applied to “women’s work.”

“I have been thinking about my relation to Modernism,” Jackie Gendel comments. In our current time of tremendous change and feeling it is hard not to look back on the modern period with some sense of awe. We ponder, Gendel writes, “past visions of the future, and why things have turned out the way they have, or haven’t turned out another way. How did we get here? Where are we?”

Jackie Gendel says that the people in her paintings are, “in different states of awareness.” Individual figures in Gendel’s work play off groupings. People exist in pictorial spaces figured in the language of dance, operatic and theatrical design. Much of Jackie Gendel’s recent work makes contradictory use of two of modernity’s most common conventions of image production: serial repetition of form and the sequential image of narrative. In Gendel’s compositions, it can take time to differentiate between person and pattern, emphasizing narrative playfulness and mystery. Embracing a fluid approach, Gendel comments that she develops, “scenes, characters and situations through deliberate figuration, intuitive mark making, color and chance procedures,” often painting over works, or creating the same image in different colors and sizes to subvert the singular image. “They’re still figures of women, but they’re also shapes moving. It makes you think about the shift to abstraction.”

Gendel’s paintings are filled with protagonists dancing, talking, acting upon a stage, coming together in groups. “I paint people because the process of painting a portrait is similar to identity formation...the materials, the spills, the language, tells me who this person is becoming.” Gendel’s direct mark-making plays off the subtle atmospheres she creates, back-stopping her gestured brushwork with flows of liquid color. Gendel’s figures are activated by the color and structure of the painting itself. They make a way for themselves through the world of the painting, coming together as if in a dream, walking in the dark.

Jackie Gendel (b. 1973, Houston, TX) received a BA from Washington University in St. Louis (St. Louis, MO) and an MFA from Yale University (New Haven, CT). Her paintings were featured in the recent exhibition, “Pocket Universe” (Philip Martin Gallery, Los Angeles, CA). Gendel has

Philip Martin Gallery
3342 Verdugo Road, Los Angeles, CA 90065
www.philipmartingallery.com

ARTFORUM

“Jackie Gendel,” *Artforum*, *Art Guide*, July 1, 2024.



Jackie Gendel
All the Moving Parts, 2024
Oil on canvas
48 x 60 in
121.9 x 152.4 cm

been the subject of solo and group exhibitions at Inman Gallery (Houston, TX); SOCO Gallery (Charlotte, NC); Thomas Erben Gallery (New York, NY). Gendel's work is included in the collections of Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art (Hartford, CT); and Progressive Collection (Mayfield Village, OH). Gendel has been featured in publications such as *Artforum*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Art in America*, *Hyperallergic*, *Modern Painters*, and *Art Papers*. The American Academy of Arts and Letters awarded her an Academy Award in 2007. She participated in the Marie Walsh Sharpe Space Program in 2010 and was an artist-in-residence at the MacDowell Colony in 2005. Gendel's early work derived from her background in underground comics, a medium of “sequential image” storytelling, which she drew in the late '90s for an upstart feminist webzine for teenage girls. Gendel lives and works in Providence, RI.

“The Architect's Daughters” is on view June 29 - August 3, 2024, with an opening for the artist Saturday, June 29 from 5-8 pm.

Philip Martin Gallery is open Wednesday-Saturday 11-5 and Tuesdays by appointment. The gallery is located at 3342 Verdugo Road, Los Angeles CA 90065. For additional images and information please call 323-507-2037 or email info@philipmartingallery.com.