

The Painting Center
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For Immediate Release: Glass (of) Water
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"The painter's reflected face, in which we linger"
-John Ashbery, Self-Portrait In A Convex Mirror

Glass (Of) Water

The Painting Center is pleased to present Glass (of) Water, curated by painter Pamela Lawton. The exhibition will run from March 30 to April 24, with the opening reception taking place on April 1. This group exhibit focuses on the elusive nature of reflection. Captivating the imagination of diverse artists, the enduring allure of reflection is portrayed through media such as fiberglass, mirrors, paint, video, photography and plastic.

From the pulsing reverberations of Eric Wolf's landscapes to the measured containment of Rackstraw Downe's Hudson River, each artist explores elements of reflection and surface, either portrayed or, as in Tom Butter's case, presented literally, using materials with varying degrees of opacity, luminosity and reflectivity. Robert Berlind's puddles hypnotize through magnification. Harriett Shorr's large-scale paintings of reflecting ponds on windless days are derived from miniature studio setups using glass mirrors, not water, as her "reflecting pool."

A reflected surface, be it water or glass, can contain within it an array of objects and beings, now transformed into one substance, one surface. This can be disorienting, as in Alex Katz's work included here, where the horizon line disappears and all that remains is the reflection. In the case of Karina Aguilera Skvisrsky, digitally manipulated photographs enhance photography's ability to meld disparate spaces, combining inside and outside. The exploration of illusion and diffusion as light hits these transparent and mutable surfaces is the connecting thread. Not only artists, but also viewers find reflections, especially their own, irresistible. In every reflection, the viewer's face lingers.

The work of artists Karina Aguilera Skvisrsky, Olive Ayhens, Robert Berlind, Tom Butter, Rackstraw Downes, James Hyde, Alex Katz, Rifka Milder, Mary Lucier, Avigail Schimmel, Harriett Shorr, Dan Steinhilber, Eric Wolf, and Jane Zweibel, will be on view.

The Painting Center is a non-profit tax-exempt artist-run organization. Its purpose is to exhibit and promote painting in all its diversity and possibility; it does not champion one school or tradition. Works of young, middle-career and emerging artists as well as mature artists are exhibited. Gallery hours: Tues-sat.11-6 www.thepaintingcenter.com

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