

NICELLE BEAUCHENE GALLERY

Alex Bradley Cohen

Personal Space

October 11 – November 10, 2019

Opening Reception: Friday, October 11, 6-8 pm

Nicelle Beauchene is pleased to present *Personal Space*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by Alex Bradley Cohen. This is his second show with the gallery.

Cohen utilizes portraiture to visualize the push and pull of identity and interpersonal relationships. Working with acrylic paint on canvas, the artist depicts friends, family members, and himself in scenes that foreground everyday moments. The intimacy between Cohen and his subjects is clear: friends appear across a shared lunch table, relaxed in their living rooms, or playing a game of chess. Materializing from personal photographs and memories rather than direct observation, each painting serves as an exercise in world building, while emphasizing the interiority of his subjects.

In *Personal Space*, Cohen renders his portraits with bright flat colors, visible brush strokes, and distorted perspectives that provide flexible entry points into in each work. *Keon and Kamau*, 2019 and *Shai-Lee Horodi*, 2018 exemplify Cohen's ability to muddle the divide between abstraction and figuration. In these paintings, bold planes of color work in tandem to imply the interior space around the figures they encompass. A quadrant of colors envelops Shai-Lee across the plane of a table; the flat yellow of Kamau's outstretched arm and the brushed purple of his leg intersect a space of light and dark green. Cohen's abstraction becomes a narrative device in the construction of space around his subjects, highlighting the interdependence of each figure and their environments. Bridging foreground and background, his colors and forms build out space for earnest connectivity and reciprocity.

Alex Bradley Cohen (b. 1989) lives and works in Chicago, IL. He was recently included in *Triple: Alex Bradley Cohen, Louis Fratino, and Tschabalala Self*, at the University Art Museum at the University of Albany, NY. He has held solo and two-person exhibitions at The Luggage Store, San Francisco, CA; Mana Contemporary, Chicago, IL; and Carrie Secrist Gallery, Chicago, IL, among others. Cohen has shown in group exhibitions at The Studio Museum of Harlem, New York, NY; The Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago, IL; Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, IL; Socrates Sculpture Park, Long Island City, NY; and The Craft and Folk Art Museum, Los Angeles, CA. He is an alumnus of the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture and was an artist-in-residence at the Ox-Bow School of Art.

For further information, please contact gallery@nicellebeauchene.com.

Gallery hours are Wednesday-Sunday, 11am-6pm.