

NICELLE BEAUCHENE GALLERY

Jennifer Paige Cohen

Accompanied

December 8, 2022 - January 14, 2023

Opening reception Thursday, December 8 6-8 PM

Nicelle Beauchene Gallery is pleased to present *Accompanied*, its third solo exhibition with Brooklyn-based artist Jennifer Paige Cohen.

Jennifer Paige Cohen's sculptures have frequently intimated time and the body through methods of abstraction and absence. Featuring works made within the last two years, *Accompanied* addresses the body as a divergent site of vulnerability, stasis, and transformation,

As a reliquary contains elements of a person or soul, Cohen's sculptures contain embodied fragments of strangers, friends, family and the artist herself. Using worn clothing gathered over time, Cohen bunches and knots a dense, fabric core which is then wrapped with gauze and plaster, dried, and repeated. This laborious process of hand-building is intuitive—the artist shaping from the mind—and manifests in rough-hewn figures that either stand, kneel, or recline. In material and form, the sculptures harken to Greco-Roman classical antiquity; yet here time and tradition are more fluid, transitory, messy.

Gesture accrues on each figure's body. Across the imperfect plaster Cohen details limbs and faces with watercolor washes. Loose lines sketch out kneecaps and hipbones, spines and hands. Sparsely patched scraps of fabric adorn the painted plasters, creating an impressionistic collage on each body that, in some instances, literally draws the inside out. On some of the works, billowing, brightly colored patterns spill out of what might have been an arm socket or collarbone. On others, more lean, languid strips fall from a wrist or clutched palm. A black zipper articulates a spine on the back of *Untitled (self-portrait)* (2022). The artist's first attempt at her own likeness sits accompanied, by a cast of friends and vestiges of now and long ago.

Jennifer Paige Cohen lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She has been the subject of solo and two-person exhibitions at The Pit, Los Angeles; The Saint-Gaudens Memorial, New Hampshire; Rachel Uffner Gallery, New York; Salon 94, New York; and White Columns, New York. Group exhibitions include Petzel Gallery, Regina Rex, PPOW, Creative Time, The Elizabeth Foundation, Casey Kaplan and Public Art Fund, all New York, NY; Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, Ridgefield, CT; September Gallery, Hudson, NY; Kate MacGarry, London, UK; and Thaddeus Ropac, Salzburg, Austria, among numerous others.

Jennifer holds an MFA in Sculpture from the Yale University School of Art. She has received grants and fellowships from Café Royal Cultural Foundation, Saint-Gaudens Memorial, Pollock-Krasner Foundation, The MacDowell Colony, The Corporation of Yaddo, The Marie Walsh Sharpe/Walentas Space Program, Civitella Ranieri and the Chinati Foundation.