

LUNGLEY

Sass Popoli

02/11 - 14/12/2024

Private view: 01 November 2024, 6-9pm



You Can Not Not See (2024)
Paraffin wax, charcoal, oil pastels, metal plates on MDF, 31 x 49cm.

LUNGLEY is pleased to present a series of new paintings by Sass Popoli that appear as simultaneously abstract and figurative. Motifs evoke eyes, lips, hands and celestial verses. Text appears across images of hairy skins that may also be interpreted as symbolic landscapes - literal entry points to the interior and the self.

Grids, domestic constructions and monochromatic surfaces influence the bodily scale of the paintings. The artist breaks down oil pastels with charcoal and paraffin which are key materials repeatedly employed throughout their work, this process is described by the artist as "like biting cream coated biscuits, I like it and I have been wanting more of it". The viewer might almost imagine the sound of charcoal slipping through the oily surface of these works. The artist joins and re-joins the surfaces of these paintings using metal plates, shaped brackets and wing-nuts. The final outcome of the work bears witness to its sense of assemblage and a 'do-it-yourself' aesthetic.

Sass Popoli graduated with a Master of Fine Arts in Painting and Drawing from School of the Art Institute of Chicago, having previously completed a Bachelor of Science in Pure Mathematics from Shahid Beheshti University in Tehran.

Popoli has been a fellow of Künstlerdorf Schöppingen (2023) and Kala Art Institute (2022). They are also the author of *Mahbubeh*, published by Poor Farm Press (2021). Popoli has also participated in the Viewing Program at The Drawing Center, New York (2021), *Separate Boundary*, Iranian Artists' Forum, Tehran (2021) and The Annual Exhibition of the Association of Iranian Painters (2020).

Popoli has been included in exhibitions in the United States, United Kingdom, Germany and Iran. Recent exhibitions include *Dig and Rise*, The Kala Gallery, Berkeley, CA, (2023) *Spider on Hairs*, Stiftung Künstlerdorf, Schöppingen, Germany (2023) *Present Artifact* Ralph Arnold Gallery, Loyola University Chicago (2021) *Kolombeh* 6018NORTH, Chicago, IL, (2019) *Sahand Bijeh Zanjani*, Azad Gallery, Tehran, (2017) *Percussive Planes*, Azad Art Gallery, Tehran, (2016)

For further information please contact the gallery at mark@lungleygallery.com

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