

## Meg Franklin: *Gloryland*

March 21-May 2, 2018

Opening Reception: March 22, 2018 5:00-9:30pm

Location: Pacific Design Center, 8687 Melrose Ave, West Hollywood, CA 90069, VAROLA, Suite B256

Hours: Tuesday – Friday 11am-5pm or by appointment



*Gloryland*, 2018  
Oil and acrylic on velvet.  
48 x 36 in. (122 x 91 cm)

Oculus Gallery is pleased to announce *Gloryland*, an exhibition of paintings on velvet by Brooklyn-based artist Meg Franklin. The exhibition, which runs from March 22nd through May 2, 2018, is the artist's first solo show on the West coast and follows on the heels of her first solo show in New York which opened earlier this month. The exhibition will be held at VAROLA located in the Pacific Design Center in Los Angeles, CA.

*Gloryland* will feature a brand new body of work. Franklin's process includes collecting objects, designing a tableau from them and subsequently painting these curated scenes in deep, bold, sometimes acidic colors on velvet. Franklin's still life paintings display acute sensitivity to scale and unity of arrangement as well as being studies in subtle and sophisticated gradations in hue, tone and light.

The title *Gloryland* comes from the artist's childhood, "it's the name of a place my dad made up with all of my grandmother's favorite things: sugar free fudge and dolls and angel figurines and signed photos of pageant queens. He'd tell her they could go and she'd get really excited and then he'd get mad at her and be like, "nope, not taking you to Gloryland anymore." This exhibition gives Franklin the chance to create her own Gloryland, full of all of her favorite collected bits and bobs.

From the accompanying catalog essay, acclaimed American designer Harry Allen says, "Sometimes the objects in the paintings are identifiable, but often Meg obscures and changes them, pushing them just outside of reality. As others have said, her paintings often look like 'memories' or 'thoughts', just out of reach, difficult to comprehend. The viewer must just accept and delight in the color and texture and paint strokes, and let go of the desire to identify."

The artist explains, "The paintings explore the haziness of identity in the face of the human need to establish it. They also focus on the raw physicality of objects. When I take away the function of my objects, I leave behind something purely physical: texture, color, shape. I hope the paintings point to the pleasures of closely observing physical things."

Meg Franklin is a Brooklyn-based painter originally from rural Northeast Georgia. She paints still lifes made up of objects that fall just short of identifiable. Reminiscent of everyday items, her objects feel recognizable, but ultimately have no known name or function. Franklin's current body of work uses geometrical enclosures and limited color palettes to isolate her objects into self-contained worlds. She has a MFA in painting from New York Academy of Art.

## EXHIBITION FACTS

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