

LOIE HOLLOWELL

ONE OPENING LEADS TO ANOTHER

Nov 22, 2019 – Jan 04, 2020 | Opening: 5-7pm

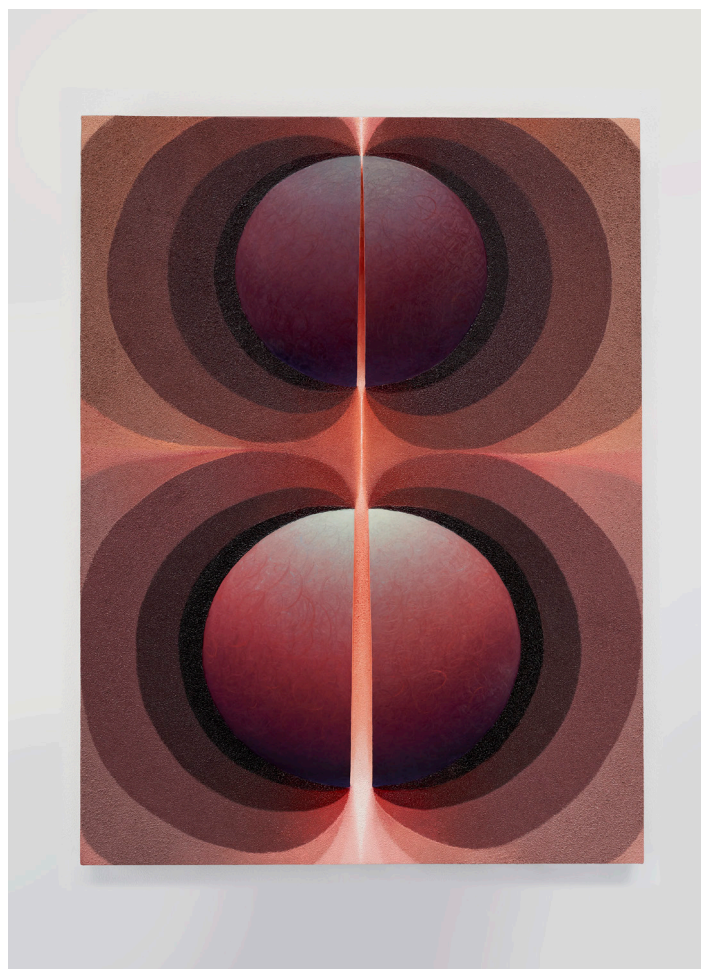
Keizersgracht 241, Amsterdam

GRIMM is proud to present *One opening leads to another* by Loie Hollowell (b. 1983, Woodland, CA, US). The exhibition will open during Amsterdam Art Weekend 2019 and marks Hollowell's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Hollowell will present a group of new paintings which reference the body as a landscape and the act of giving birth.

Energy, the vital property that sustains life and growth through ceaseless transformations, takes shape in Loie Hollowell's new series of works. Hollowell's paintings radiate with energy stemming from an ongoing stream of consciousness, activating the tension between the surface of her canvases and the materiality of the works as art-objects. These paintings combine concave and convex shapes which allude to an inner energy with qualities that are both calm and soothing, as well as an urging, pulsing, itching, pushing and painful. The act of breathing- depicted by pulsing lines- resonates as a primordial chorus in each painting, illustrating the various stages of the birthing process.

In *Meeting Place* the sense of waiting, of balancing the scales of emotion becomes palpable, while in *Horizon on my pit of hell* the specific moment of giving birth, of pushing a baby into the world with all the emotional and psychical intensity this demands is defined by clear, stark lines of pain and tenderness. The radiant *One opening leads to another* illustrates life-giving energy as it is passed on- through ones' own body into another, affirmative life-creating energy illustrated by an aura of energy lines. *Sitting in a Landscape* illustrates Loie's approach to the body-as-landscape, where a horizon line anchors the composition, depicting the body going into labour with a series of concentric lines and circles. The exhibition concludes with *Squeezed Cheeks* which can be read as a post-partum reflection.

Loie Hollowell's focus on the body creates a new visual language that captures the overarching themes of the intimate relationship between the body, the self, sex, time and space.



Loie Hollowell, *One opening leads to another*, 2019

The paintings are built-up as wall reliefs from which an internal logic and subject matter gradually unfold. Their curvaceous surfaces break down the formal barrier between painting and sculpture. Hollowell's process entails building up her surfaces and layers to create enchanting illusions which challenge any single or realistic light source, while creating a associations through the visual poetry of the surface. The use of color gradients creates the illusion of an internal luminosity and makes these complex paintings surge with a slow-burning sensuality and intimacy at its most intense.

Infusing elements of ancient sacred iconography (an almond-shaped mandala represents a vagina, and the lingam shape, an abstracted penis), Hollowell creates a painterly language that conveys the physicality and otherworldliness of the primal sexual act. Within the work a number of narratives are approached with intelligence and humor, as well as a total sense of liberation on sexuality and the human form.

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For more information, interview and royalty free image requests
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About the artist

Loie Hollowell (b. 1983, Woodland, CA, US) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY (US). She earned a BFA from the University of California, Santa Barbara (US), and an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA (US).

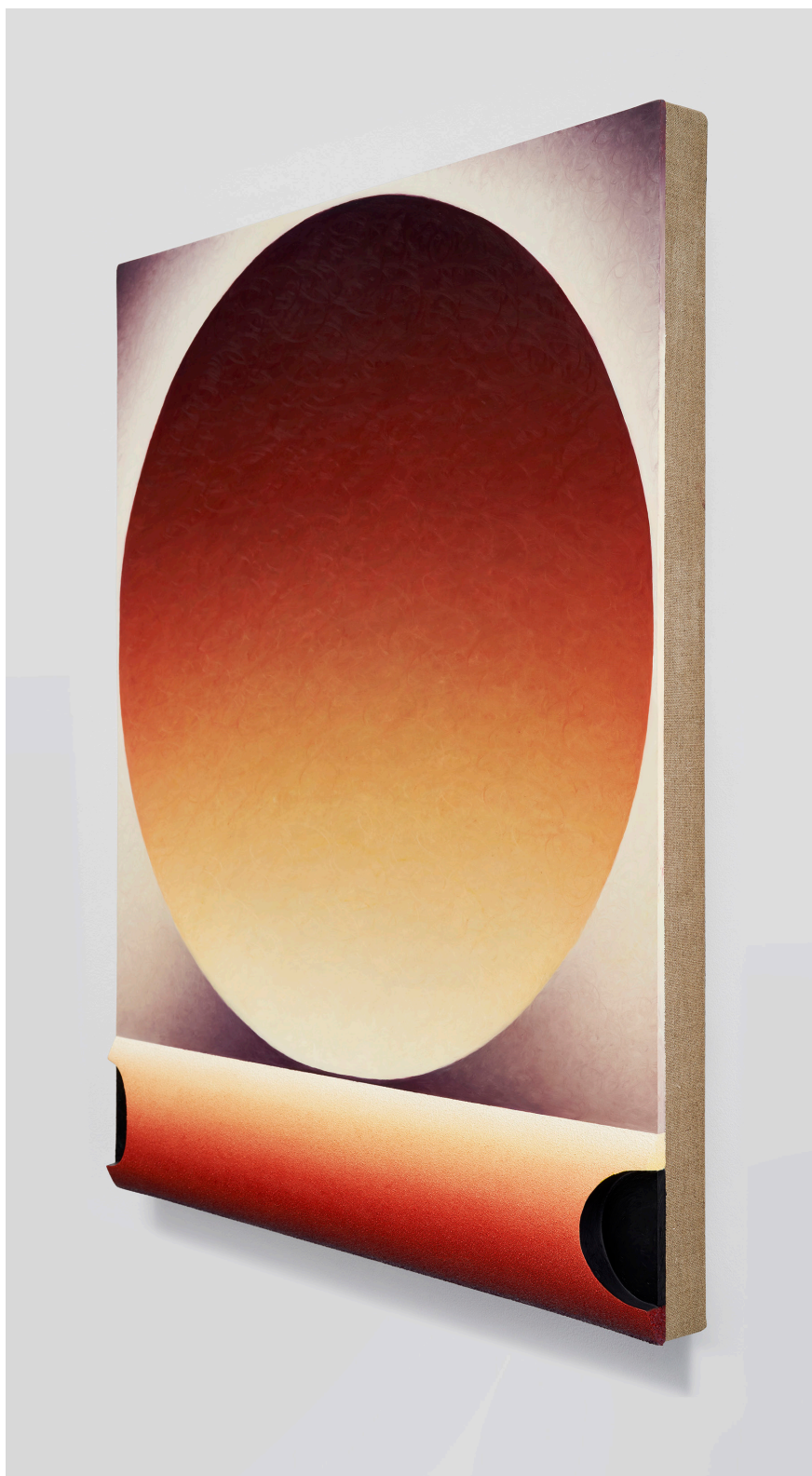
Hollowell was the recipient of a 2011 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts Fellowship Award, a residency at the Constance Saltonstall Foundation for the Arts and the Queens Art Fund Grant from the Queens Council on the Arts.

Her work has been exhibited at FLAG Art Foundation, New York, NY (US); PACE Gallery, New York, NY (US); Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR (US); The New Britain Museum of Art, CT (US), amongst others.

Selected public collections include the Arts Council England, London (UK); Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, AR (US) and Zentrum Paul Klee, Bern (CH).

About the gallery

GRIMM represents thirty international artists. Since its establishment in 2005, it has been the gallery's mission to represent and support the work of emerging and mid-career artists. The 300 square meter main gallery space is located near Amsterdam's museum square. In 2016, GRIMM opened a second gallery space on the Keizersgracht in Amsterdam, offering both artists and visitors a new exhibition space in a classical canal house. In 2017 the gallery opened a third venue, a large exhibition space across two floors in the Lower East Side of Manhattan, New York City.



Loie Hollowell, *Horizon on my pit of hell*, 2019

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