

## Sarah Schlesinger: Eye Level

30 May - 06 July 2024



GARDEN VIEW (2024)  
SARAH SCHLESINGER

Huxley-Parlour are delighted to announce *Eye Level*, American artist Sarah Schlesinger's first solo exhibition with the gallery. Opening at our Maddox Street space in late May 2024, *Eye Level* will present twelve new works developed over the last year. In her work the artist seeks to reveal the mechanics of the visual; implementing a rigorous perspectival structure, and the trickery of shadows and light, Schlesinger confronts the possibilities of objectivity.

Working on an intimate scale, Schlesinger's landscapes recalibrate the genre's traditions and posit the question: what can you see? Including seascapes and gardenscapes, the artist creates works positioned between the binaries of revelation and negation, immediacy and futurity, and symmetry and false symmetry. The exhibition's title situates the works within a particular visionary framework, emphasizing the subjective centrality of the spectator; its palindromic condition speaks to the flux between these boundaries.

Schlesinger charts a horizon line that runs through the exhibition in a continual replication of line. Drawing inspiration from French Realist painter Gustave Courbet's *The Stone Breakers* (1849), Schlesinger confines the skyline of her landscapes to the uppermost register of the composition. Eschewing the traditions of foreground, middleground and distance in the landscape genre, the artist removes any suggestion of the panoramic, imbuing her work with an immediacy that negates the possibility of something more expansive. In her garden scenes, neatly arranged hedgerows dominate the composition, obfuscating our view of what lies on the other side. Schlesinger engages with the notion of the garden as a site of containment and the refinement of the natural, presupposing an opposite which may be just out of view. The artist extends this investigation in her seascapes

*View From Land* and *View From Sea*; making use of false symmetry the vistas initially appear the same, though are in fact rendered from opposing views.

Schlesinger employs shadow to amplify her playful study of space. A hedgerow may at first appear as a perfectly symmetrical mirroring of geometric forms, however, on closer inspection is revealed to be the effect of cast shadow. Influenced by the twentieth-century painter Giorgio Morandi, the artist utilises perspective to examine how line and form create interventions into space. Schlesinger's depiction of objects and voids, positive and negative space, reveals the complexity implicit in the medium of painting itself - taking a flat surface and lending it form and multidimensionality.

Though the iconography of the works appear familiar, the landscapes are imagined. Shapes dissolve, shadows glitch and light flickers as we adjust our eyes to the scenes of Schlesinger's paintings. In this way Schlesinger's work invites the act of prolonged looking and allows for a reconsideration of our own attentiveness and a re-evaluation of our point of view. Operating at the boundary between revelation and obscurity, the artist lays bare the logics of vision, confronting us with the inherent restriction of our point of view, while also disclosing the potentiality for imagination of what may lie out of view.

Sarah Schlesinger (born 1988) received her BFA from Taylor University in 2010, before graduating with an MFA from New York Academy of Art in 2015. She is a recipient of a 2015 Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant, and the 2015-2016 Chubb Postgraduate Fellowship at New York Academy of Art. Schlesinger's work has been exhibited in New York, Miami, Oslo, Brussels and Mexico City among others. She lives and works in New York.

Sarah Schlesinger

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HUXLEY-PARLOUR

45 Maddox Street, London W1S 2PE

Opening Hours Monday to Friday, 9:00am - 5:30pm

Saturdays, 10:00am - 1:00pm

Entry is free

More information can be found online at [www.huxleyparlour.com](http://www.huxleyparlour.com)

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