

Emma Fineman

*Encounters*

27 April - 21 May



*PERIPHERAL VISIONS* (2021), EMMA FINEMAN

Huxley-Parlour is pleased to present *Encounters*, an exhibition of new work by London-based artist, Emma Fineman. *Encounters* consists of work across three mediums: painting, sculpture, and monoprint, and will be Fineman's first solo show at Huxley-Parlour.

The title, *Encounters*, refers to a modern hierarchy of images in which ideas of space, communication, and touch - both physical and metaphorical - are contested. Speaking about her work, Fineman says: 'I am most interested in the gaps and the slippages, places where things don't always align and that often encourage longer looking.'

*Encounters* engages with theory on the post-internet age. Fineman's practice maintains painterly, fleshy tones, while insistently prodding the effects of culture, industry, and speed on the collective unconscious. Spanning sublime Renaissance composition, epic classical form, and twentieth-century figuration, *Encounters* is an index of references, deconstructing art history along the postmodern vectors of centre and periphery.

Painted with gentle majesty, Emma Fineman presents five new paintings and one monoprint whose compositions recall the transcendent and religiously inflected canvases of William Blake, opposing the terrestrial and celestial, the known and the unknown. Her heavily wrought, impasto brushstrokes imbue the works with a strong haptic presence, inviting allegorical reading.

Significantly, *Encounters* will continue Fineman's exploration of painterly space with *Peripheral Visions* - a frieze whose sheer size forces the viewer to consider the artist's marshaling of the picture frame, and the viewer's own relationship to pictorial space. This painting is formative, and has a gravity around which the central themes of the show coalesce. The artist states: 'The peripheral space is one where things are felt, and are instinctive, a fixated viewpoint becomes unnecessary in order to perceive and to understand'.

*Encounters* will also be the first time Fineman exhibits sculpture in the UK with two new bronzes - *The Exchange* and *Temporal Reaching* - the first of which uses form to consider connection, communication, and understanding across a symbolic divide.

Born in 1991 in Berkeley, California, Emma Fineman completed a BFA in painting from Maryland Institute College of Art in 2013, and received an MA in painting from the Royal College of Art, London, in 2018. She has exhibited widely across Europe and the United States, including at East Wing Biennial 13, The Courtauld Institute (2018); PUBLIC Gallery (2019), and Alexander Berggruen Gallery, New York (2021).

Fineman is the recipient of numerous awards and residencies including the Porthmeor Studio Residency, St Ives, United Kingdom and the Palazzo Monti Residency, Brescia, Italy. In 2018, Fineman was included in Bloomberg New Contemporaries exhibition at South London Gallery and the John Moores Painting Prize at the Walker Art Gallery as a part of the Liverpool Biennial. She is the recipient of the London Bronze Editions Prize (2020) and was selected for the New American Paintings Pacific Coast Competition (2020) and as a finalist for the Hopper Prize in (2021). She lives and works in London.

## Notes to Editors

Emma Fineman: *Encounters*, 27 April - 21 May

Private View: 27 April, 6-8pm

Huxley-Parlour Gallery, 3-5 Swallow Street, W1B 4DE

Press images can be found at [this](#) link

Opening hours Monday to Saturday, 10:00am - 5:30pm

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