

Grace Lee: Love and Theft

24 April - 31 May 2025



Loss Leader (Epilogue), 2025
Grace Lee

"And for forgetful me, it's what I have gleaned that tells me where I've been."
- Agnes Varda

"Everything I've ever let go of has claw marks on it."
- David Foster Wallace

Huxley-Parlour are delighted to announce *Love and Theft*, a new solo exhibition by Grace Lee, opening in April 2025. For their second solo exhibition with the gallery, the artist returns to a preoccupation with loss and control in a suite of new small-scale paintings which navigate thematic and conceptual tensions of the archive.

Weaving together cultural iconography with personal histories, images are lifted from books, manuals, film posters, advertisements, and photographs that are digitally collected before being collated and compounded, recontextualising them through juxtaposition and association. The result is a figurative likeness, but one characterised by a simplicity of pictorial information, tracing line, shape, and tone.

In this new body of work a persistent absence hints at a state beyond faces, objects, and narrative to the power and the mystery of suggestion, challenging the objectivity we might associate with an archival practice, particularly in the digital age. In Lee's work the primacy of objectivity, what Hannah Turner, in her book *Cataloguing Culture*, derisively calls the "assumption of veracity and reverence for the possibilities of impartial, omniscient technologies", is held in contrast to shadows and shapes that are more suggestions than objects, backgrounds to a more diaristic approach which, along with their small scale, strikes an almost confessional tone.

This is just one of the tensions discretely woven into the work's conceptual fabric, which simultaneously draws out the fraught boundaries between public and private, preservation and domination, as well as questions of ownership, identity and desire. There's a fetishistic quality to the two stylistically dissonant works that frame the installation, mirrored cinematic images of rifling hands that serve as a touchstone for an innate, and innately flawed, human impulse. As archivist Jenn Shapland writes in her essay *Finders Keepers*: "Acquire it, collect it, steal it, forward it, conserve it, preserve it, store it, house it, box it, hold it, wear it, but there's just no keeping it."

Lee, born 1995, received their BA in Fine Art from Goldsmiths, London and their MA in Fine Art from the Slade School of Fine Art, London. They have exhibited at Mall Galleries, London; Albert House, London; and Piazza Martiri della Libertà, Chiari. They were awarded the Barto Dos Santos Memorial Award in 2021, as well as the NOA15 East of England Award and shortlisted for The Worshipful Company of Painters-Stainers Award in 2015. Lee lives and works in London.

Grace Lee

Love and Theft

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Private View 23 April, 6–8 pm

HUXLEY-PARLOUR

3–5 Swallow Street, London W1B 4DE

Opening Hours Monday to Friday, 10:00am - 5:30pm

Saturdays, 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Entry is free

More information can be found online at www.huxleyparlour.com