Soft Walls

Exhibition Catalogue

City Hall, St. Catharines, Ontario / June 2021

During the pandemic, the City Hall of St. Catharines accomplishes essential work. The exhibition *Soft Walls* imagines a restful transitional space in its hallways. Curators Catherine Parayre and Shawn Serfas present paintings using soft floral and figurative patterns that are both complex and soothing to create a relaxed, pleasant atmosphere. Inspired by decorative art practices, these suggest a meditative and carefree environment and are accompanied by soft-spoken fragments of texts. In a place where important, at times difficult decisions are made and where city life is shaped, *Soft Walls* is an invitation to enjoy a quiet, introspective moment while letting one's eyes linger on delicate structures and engaging colour associations.

Curators: Catherine Parayre (Centre for Studies in Arts and Culture) and Shawn Serfas (Department of Visual Arts), Marilyn I. Walker School of Fine and Performing Arts, Brock University, Niagara Region

To mimic the unpredictability of the outdoors,
sparkling blue fades into tiny shadows
reflected in traces of water
behind neon flowers growing off the neutral sky.

The weight of the world is clumped below me.
Butterflies land on pulsating tulip petals.
Colour blocking,
perfected realism blooming at different levels,
black line art separating the grass
from ambiguous colours, offer perspective.

Brimming over transient saturation,
the troubles we must face
never compete, have similarities to the sun.
Are birds caged? Enveloped?
Framed around our focus on movement
within fluid metamorphoses?

The choice of red tulips is not a sad loneliness.
Stories float across valleys, pastels swirl.
The illusion of readability is
like tagging butterflies for their migration.
A hard building feels soft.
Have you seen any crickets or grasshoppers?

Soft Walls

4 blocks, vinyl lettering

Authors:

Alicia Armacinski, Janelle Barretto, Alyssa Campbell, Sarah Cecchini, Iris Ciu, Justin Co, David Figueroa, Malcolm Gear, Giuliana Gervasio, Clive Green, Dominik Hekiart, Jim Kershaw, Kiera King, Kalista Mackisey, Maria Maletta, Emma McLachlan, Maya Meyerman, Ariana Mota, Quinn O'Brien, Sarah Pastore, Tony Payment, Vanessa Pereira, Emily Purkis, Jessie Richard, Jessica Smith, Jamie Tomao-Martin, Charlotte Vann, Blake Wilson, Simon Xu

Hannah Holmes
Flowers (After Warhol)
2021
Acrylic and marker on wood panel
30.5 x 30.5 x 3.8 cm (12 x 12 x 1.5 in.)

Lindsay Liboiron

Surf

2020

Acrylic and Gel Medium on Wooden Panel

40.64 x 40.64 cm (16 x 16 in.)

Hannah Holmes

Tulips I

2019

Oil on canvas

25.4 x 25.4 x 3.8 cm (10 x 10 x 1.5 in.)

Lindsay Liboiron

Sail

2020

Acrylic and Gel Medium on Paper

11.43 x 17.78 cm (4.5 x 7.5 in.)

Hannah Holmes

Tulips II

2019

Acrylic on canvas

50.8 x 50.8 x 3.8 cm (20 x 20 x 1.5 in.)

Lindsay Liboiron
Bright Birdie
2020
Acrylic and Gel Medium on Paper
12.7 x 12.7 cm (5 x 5 in.)