

MODERNISM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Gallery Exhibition Schedule

Patti OLEON: Somewhere Else

November 8 – December 22, 2018

The oil paintings of Patti OLEON are highly representational depictions of period interiors, gathered during her recent travels to Budapest, Prague, Venice, Berlin, and Istanbul, yet, like a stage set before the opening of a play, these interiors are resolutely devoid of human habitation. Unfamiliar and unplaceable, her depictions of interiors reference the past yet are firmly rooted in the present.

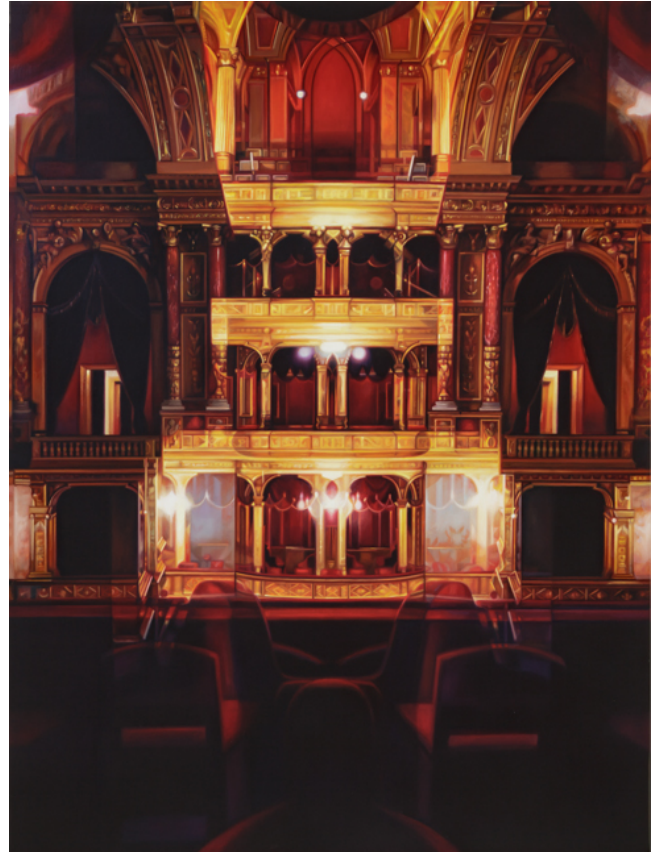
Starting with her original photographs, Oleon digitally manipulates, mirrors, and layers alternate views of the same space, finally creating a composite image, a blueprint from which to begin her painting, using Old Master techniques. She composes structures and intersections of light and form, seeking the edge between realism and illusion, the tension between the known and the unidentifiable. Pervasive warm light

creates an ambiguous, sensuous skin that contradicts the motionless, powerful void. Each painting becomes a still life, with a relationship between time and image echoing a Proustian sensibility.

Oleon's paintings unsettle us, and yet sustain our interest . . . *Opera* upsets reality by symmetrically perfecting it, achieving an ideal in décor at the expense of habitability. We literally do not know where we stand relative to the image. The more that we accept what our eyes see, the more that our bodies feel ghostly.

Given these complex dynamics of time and space—not to mention her preferred subjects and methods—Oleon's art has as much in common with avant-garde cinema as it does with contemporary painting. Her interiors occupy a mental space equivalent to *Last Year in Marienbad*, in which both time and space operate convincingly, disconcertingly, despite internal inconsistencies: Dialogue repeats in disconnected scenes, set within a chateau that is a filmic composite of multiple unrelated palaces. Like *Marienbad*, paintings such as *Opera* and *The Met IV* persuade us to suspend disbelief because our psychological states are not strictly reasonable, and our psyches are inherently more real to us than reality.

Patti Oleon's great accomplishment is not that she deceives us with her paintings, but that she lets us see ourselves being deceived. She reveals that our reality is our invention.



Opera, 2018, oil on hardwood wood panel
48 x 36 inches

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Modernism is proud to present its seventh one-person exhibition of paintings Patti OLEON. Oleon received both her B.A. and M.F.A from UCLA, from which she graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *summa cum laude*. She has been the recipient of numerous awards and grants, including the Guggenheim Foundation, Pollock Krasner Foundation Grant (twice), the Adolph and Esther Gottlieb Foundation Grant, Fulbright/DAAD Fellowship, Ford Foundation Grant, and an Ingram Merrill Foundation Grant.

The public is cordially invited to attend an opening reception on Thursday, November 8th, from 5:30-8PM.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 415/541-0461 / FAX: 415/541-0425, OR EMAIL TO:
INFO@MODERNISMINC.COM.

HI-RES IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.



The Met IV, 2018
oil on hardwood panel
24 x 18 inches