

JAMES HARRIS GALLERY
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PRESS RELEASE



“Shadow Time”
May 14 to June 25, 2022
Exhibition at studio e gallery
Reception: Sat., May 14th 5-7PM
Address Below

Top Left Image: Claire Cowie
“Self-Portrait (Blind)” 2019
Hard ground etching, aquatint, dry point
7 ½” x 5 ½”

Top Right Image: Mary Ann Peters
“history lesson” 2015
cotton Jacquard weave
Edition of 2
52” x 66”

Bottom Image: Fay Jones
“The Gambler’s Shade” 2019
Acrylic on paper
25 ½” x 56 ¼”

James Harris Gallery in coordination with studio e is pleased to present a group exhibition titled “Shadow Time.” This cross-generational show features the work of three women who use personal histories as the thematic ideas for their work. “Shadow Time” explores aspects of memory and how it remains buried in the unconscious until a catalyst brings it to the fore. The three artists have deep connections to the Northwest, and have all worked individually with admiration for one another’s work. They share some commonality, but mostly each artist’s oeuvre is distinct. This show is the first time multiple works by Claire Cowie, Fay Jones and Mary Ann Peters will be on view together at studio e gallery.

Paper is the preferred medium for Claire Cowie and Fay Jones. Both of their works draw upon stories, events and people in connection to their personal life. Cowie’s work highlights the fragmentation of memory and time through her use of multiple horizon lines or negative space. She often incorporates in her paintings and collages characters, animals and figures, to create psychological narratives. This exhibition will also include two of her recent bowl-shaped paper sculptures titled *Imperfect Vessels*. Constructed mostly out of paper, Cowie began to make these vessel forms in response to a personal loss. The sculptures hollow forms echo the emotions linked to death and how it generates an undefined space beyond our understanding. *Imperfect Vessels* simultaneously suggest the strengths and vulnerabilities of the body.

studio e

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For Fay Jones, painting is an intimate act and an expression of her relationship to the world. Jones uses figures that are described with line and color rather than modulation. Her figures are staged on flat planes of color to create a stylized illusion of depth. This signature style creates a tension between the immediacy of the simplicity of Jones' figures and the inscrutability of what she is depicting. Also on view will be a unique sculpture of seven hand-blown cocktail glasses tied together by a pink ribbon. The impetus of this work, created during a residency at Pilchuck Glass School, was the impact from growing up in a family of heavy drinkers. Alluding to family, the glasses appear similar but they are each unique. The sculpture's concatenation suggests that; if one teeters over, the others become unstable.

Mary Ann Peters takes personal histories linked to Middle Eastern migration as the driving force for her multimedia work. As a second generation Arab American, Peters' vantage point is both personal and distanced. Through research, Peters locates stories of displacement that have been buried by conflict or the passage of time. The stories are not her own but provide a foundation for an intuitive artistic response. By shifting between referential imagery and abstraction in her painting and drawing, her works engage in an intimate conversation about identity and place; and reflect on cultural nostalgia and the complexity of actual history. Also included in the show is a tapestry with an image inspired by a political cartoon that referenced French occupation of North Africa. By altering the image's reference to France, the narrative now shifts to the universal practice of the sublimation of one culture by another.

"Shadow Time" explores our collective and individual responses to memory and history. The three artists create idiosyncratic works that trigger a thought-provoking encounter with the way we see and interpret the world one that is powerful, comforting and disconcerting. Through their personal visions, Cowie, Jones, and Peters uniquely describe the physical and psychological spaces in which we reside. Their works distill both the emotional joy and trauma of the human psyche.

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