

Magenta Plains | Felix Art Fair 2024 | Room 1204

Alex Kwartler, Bill Saylor, Don Dudley, Ebecho Muslimova, Jane Swavely, Rachel Rossin, Zach Bruder

Alex Kwartler's paintings subtly dismantle the ordinary symbols and signs that permeate our everyday lives; collapsing the transcendental and everyday onto the painted surface. A varied lexicon of codified signs and signifiers such as pennies, Powerball, Tums, tin cans, and telephone receivers dot Kwartler's paintings. These quotidian and anachronistic items of pure utility become iconographic against Kwartler's ground of heavily processed expressionist gestures. Thoughtful and incisive, he deconstructs painterly space and visual meaning with sharp wit and humor.

Bill Saylor emerged from the vibrant painting scene that developed in the 1990s in Brooklyn. Incredibly influential to a younger generation of painters, Saylor's work is distinguished by his merging of explosive gestural abstraction with a comprehensive personal iconography, revealing an anthropogenic concern and interest in natural history, weather patterns, and marine biology. Saylor's work recycles and reframes elements from graffiti, cave painting, and industrial production while mining the legacy of both American and European expressionism.

Ebecho Muslimova, known for her raucous and sexually uninhibited character "Fatebe" creates paintings and works on paper that beguile the eye as much as they humor the mind. Fatebe's physical contortions and unpredictable quandaries play themselves out like performances on the canvas: each work depicts a single event that uncannily combines self-consciousness, comedy and vulnerability. Muslimova's technical prowess as a painter helps to underscore the sheer delight of Fatebe's misadventures. "As her life continues, Fatebe is faced with newly articulated objects, stretched over landscapes that are populated with new temptations and ghosts. With adoring precision, Muslimova codifies the echoes of domesticity, luxury, nature, education, psychology, fetish, and art itself—images that have the capacity to haunt her. Nothing can deter Fatebe, though. From her gleeful smile, we can assume that her convictions only gain momentum with every new opportunity to test them." (Quote from Natasha Stagg, *Cura Magazine*).

Don Dudley is a crucial, historical link between the optical and surface oriented "Cool School" or "Finish Fetish" generation of California artists who came into prominence in the 1960s and the more cerebral, Hard-edged Minimalist artists such as Frank Stella, Brice Marden and Ellsworth Kelly. Dudley's practice embraces drawing and painting by way of sculpture and installation—creating subtle and sophisticated wall works that stand out for both their elegance and formal intelligence. Throughout Don Dudley's seventy-year career he has challenged artistic conventions and the traditional concept of painting by incorporating industrial materials in his work such as aluminum, lacquer, homasote and plywood.

Dudley lived and worked on the West Coast for thirty-eight years before relocating to New York City in 1969. Settling first into a loft on Broome Street in SoHo, he later became one of the early pioneers in TriBeCa—where his studio remains to this day. The analytical artistic approaches in New York—especially the visual language of grids, modularity as well as the aesthetics of industrial manufacturing—had a profound impact on the artist and shifted his work away from the luscious

opticality of the early works made in Southern California. He focused his attention on structure and seriality, solidifying a connection to artists such as Anne Truitt and Donald Judd.

Jane Swavely attended Boston University College of Fine Arts, eventually moving to New York City and settling into her Bowery loft in the early 1980s. In 1986 at the age of twenty-five, she held her first solo-show at CDS Gallery, where she was part of the CDS Gallery roster until 2005. As her career progressed, Swavely became part of A.I.R, a legendary female-run art space founded in the 1970s. A.I.R provided her with five solo exhibitions from 2011-2022, showcasing the depth and breadth of her talent over the years.

Rachel Rossin is an internationally renowned artist and programmer whose multi-disciplinary practice has established her as a pioneer in the field of virtual reality. Rossin's work blends painting, sculpture, new media and more to create digital landscapes that address the impact of technology on human psychology, embodiment, sovereignty, and phenomenology. *The New York Times* has stated "Ms. Rossin has achieved something, forging a connection between abstract painting and augmented perception that opens up a fourth dimension that existed only in theory for earlier painters."

Zach Bruder's metaphorical approach to painting and long-term interest in image collecting results in inventive compositions in which both pictorial and illusionistic space play a role. Often humorous and allegorical, his paintings involve animals, architecture, and anthropomorphism. His canvases revive and repurpose familiar motifs, referencing folklore while finding new metaphors in simple objects and creatures. The source material—archetypal and drawing from classical and vernacular mythology—is culled from the artist's extensive archive of historic imagery. Addressing mythologies both cultural and personal, Bruder's paintings offer multiple interpretations of religious and social narratives and urgent responses to the societal and political moment in which they were produced. Valentina Di Liscia writes, "Faced with one of Bruder's canvases, the viewer takes an active role, deciphering the intertextuality between the multiple literary, historical, and folkloric references he often cites simultaneously."

Artist Biographies

Alex Kwartler (b. 1979, New York, NY) received his MFA from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ and his BFA from The Cooper Union, New York, NY. Kwartler has mounted three solo exhibitions at Magenta Plains. He has exhibited his work at The Green Gallery, Milwaukee, WI; 47 Canal, New York, NY; Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ; Ceysson & Bénétière, New York, NY; Nathalie Karg Gallery, New York, NY; MoMA PS 1 Contemporary Art Center, New York, NY; Mana Contemporary, Jersey City, NJ; White Columns, New York, NY; Bortolami Gallery, New York, NY; Mitchell-Innes & Nash, New York, NY; Martos Gallery, New York, NY; Casey Kaplan, New York, NY; Petzel Gallery, New York, NY; and Wallspace, New York, NY. His exhibitions have been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, *Frieze*, *Artforum* and *Art in America*. Kwartler's paintings were featured in "Painting Abstraction" edited by Bob Nickas and published by *Phaidon Press*. Kwartler was artist-in-residence at The Chinati Foundation in Marfa, TX in Spring 2017. The artist lives and works in New York, NY.

Bill Saylor (b. 1960, Willow Grove, PA) has held solo exhibitions at Magenta Plains, New York; Galerie Julien Cadet, Paris; Leo Koenig Inc., New York; The Journal Gallery, Brooklyn; and Loyal

Gallery, Stockholm. Two-person shows include *Air Like Wine* with Rob Mcleish at Neon Parc, Brunswick, AU; *Bill Saylor & Josh Smith* at Hiromi Yoshii Gallery, Tokyo, JP; *Bill Saylor & Aidas Bareikis* at Shoot The Lobster, New York, NY; *Bill Saylor & Donald Baechler* at Makebish, New York, NY; and Mason Saltarrelli and Bill Saylor at Shrine, New York, NY. Saylor was included in *Animal Farm* at the Brant Foundation and has participated in group exhibitions at Venus Over Manhattan, New York; CANADA, New York; Martos Gallery, Los Angeles; MIER Gallery, Los Angeles; Ceysson & Bénétière, Luxembourg and Yerba Buena Art Center, San Francisco. Saylor's work was also included in *Contemporary Painting* curated by Alex Katz at the Colby College Museum of Art in 2004. In 2010, Saylor collaborated on the zine "Ho Bags" with Harmony Korine and he was an artist-in-residence at the Chinati Foundation in Marfa, TX. The artist lives and works in Brooklyn, NY and Upper Black Eddy, PA.

Don Dudley's (b. 1930, Los Angeles, CA) major exhibitions include "Corners" at MIT Vera List Art Center in 1979 and solo shows at P.S.1 Contemporary Art Center in 1982 and the New Museum of Contemporary Art in 1984. Select group exhibitions at major institutions include *Contemporary American Painting* at the Whitney Museum of American Art, New York, NY (1972); *Double Take* at New Museum of Contemporary Art, New York, NY (1978); and *Activated Walls* at the Queens Museum of Art, New York, NY (1984).

After a twenty-five year hiatus from exhibiting, Dudley's work was rediscovered in 2011 to great acclaim. Recent solo exhibitions include *Don Dudley: New Work*, Magenta Plains, New York, NY (2022); *Don Dudley: Early Work*, Magenta Plains, New York, NY (2019); *Don Dudley: Activated Walls and Recent Works*, Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne, DE (2018); *Don Dudley: Recent Work*, Magenta Plains, New York, NY (2017); *Modular Spaces*, Galerie Thomas Zander, Cologne, DE (2013); *Don Dudley*, I-20 Gallery, New York, NY (2011); and *Don Dudley*, Mendes Wood, São Paulo, BR (2011).

Ebecho Mulimova (b. 1984, Makhachkala, Dagestan, RU) received her BFA at Cooper Union in New York, NY in 2010. Muslimova has presented solo exhibitions at Magenta Plains, New York, NY; The Drawing Center, New York, NY; David Zwirner Gallery, London, UK; Galerie Maria Bernheim, Zürich, CH; White Flag Projects, St. Louis, MO and Room East, New York, NY. Her work has been included in group exhibitions at Kunstmuseum Basel, CH; ICA Miami, FL; Renaissance Society, Chicago, IL; Zuzeum, Riga, LV; Hirshhorn Museum, Washington, D.C.; Swiss Institute, New York, NY; Kunsthalle St. Gallen, CH. Her large-scale murals have been commissioned for biennials such as *The Dreamers*, 58th Edition of October Salon, Belgrade, RS and The 32nd Biennale of Graphic Arts: *Birth As Criterion*, Ljubljana, SI. In 2022 Muslimova was the recipient of the Borlem Prize, honoring artists whose oeuvre brings awareness to mental health issues & struggles. Her work has been featured in publications such as *Forbes*, *The New York Times*, *Artforum*, *Art in America*, *Mousse*, *Artnet*, *Hyperallergic*, and *Cura Magazine*, among others. Muslimova is included in Jeffrey Deitch's book, *Unrealism*, featuring 27 artists and major essays by Johanna Fateman, Alison Gingeras, and Aria Dean.

Jane Swavely (b. 1959, Allentown, PA) has held solo exhibitions at the New Arts Program, Kutztown, PA; Loyola College, Baltimore, MD; and the Mandeville Gallery at Union College in Schenectady, NY. She has exhibited her paintings in group exhibitions in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Nashville, and abroad. Swavely is the recipient of a Ford Foundation Fellowship. Her work is in numerous public and private collections, including the JPMorgan Chase Art

Collection and the Allentown Art Museum in Pennsylvania. She currently lives in her loft on the Bowery in New York City and maintains a studio in Hudson Valley, New York.

Rachel Rossin's (b. 1987, Palm Beach, FL) works have been exhibited at prestigious institutions around the world; including the KW Institute of Contemporary Art, The Whitney Museum of American Art, Kiasma Museum of Helsinki, K11: Shanghai, The New Museum, Rhizome, The Hyundai Museum of Seoul, GAMeC of Bergamo Italy, HEK of Münchenstein Basel Switzerland, 'Kim' Museum of Riga Latvia, The Sundance Film Festival, The Carnegie Museum of Art and the Casino Museum of Luxembourg. In addition to her artistic practice, Rossin has also lectured at Stäedelschule, Google, MIT, Stanford, School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and her work has been published in several notable publications, such as "Video/Art: The First Fifty Years" published by Phaidon, "Chimeras, Inventory of Synthetic Cognition" by the Onassis Foundation, and "Chaos and Awe: Painting for the 21st Century" by MIT Press.

Rossin's works are in the permanent collection of institutions such as Borusan Contemporary Museum of Art in Istanbul, The Zabudowicz Collection, and the Whitney Museum of American Art. Her work has been widely covered in the press, including *National Geographic*, *The New York Times*, *The BBC*, *The Guardian*, *Al Jazeera*, *Wired Magazine*, and many others. Rossin was recently co-commissioned by the KW Institute of Contemporary Art in Berlin and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York to create an installation and digital artwork entitled *THE MAW OF*. This work was also included in *Refigured*, a group exhibition at the Whitney in Spring 2023. Currently, Rossin's site-specific installation *Haha Real* is on view at the Buffalo Bayou Park Cistern, in Houston, TX. The artist lives and works in New York, NY.

Zach Bruder (b. 1984, Cleveland, OH) received his BFA at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Madison, WI. Bruder presented his first solo show at Magenta Plains in January 2018 in New York, NY followed by *Gone to Fair* in 2020, and *Clear Arrears* in 2023. Solo exhibitions have also been held at Harlan Levey, Brussels, BE; galerie l'inlassable, Paris, FR; Gregory Lind Gallery, San Francisco, CA; and LaMaMa Galleria, New York, NY. Bruder has been included in group shows at Peter Freeman, New York, NY; Ratio 3, San Francisco, CA; The Journal Gallery, Brooklyn, NY; Phillip Slein Gallery, St. Louis, MO; and Magenta Plains, New York, NY. The artist lives and works in New York, NY.