

Fragmented Intimacy

Dates:

04.03.21 – 12.03.21; PV: 04.03.21 from 6pm

Location:

grovecollective.co for virtual reality

Participating Artists:

Amy Beager

C. Lucy R. Whitehead

Press Release

Grove Collective is pleased to present the upcoming group exhibition *Fragmented Intimacy*, featuring the UK-based artists Amy Beager and C. Lucy R. Whitehead, on view online in virtual reality through the Grove Collective website. This is the first time these artists have shown together, and marks the first time Grove Collective has worked with either of these artists.

While both of these artists' practices vary greatly in their final iterations – C. Lucy R. Whitehead's work largely trades in a frenetic abstraction, while Amy Beager's artwork often luxuriates on classical forms – the themes that undergird much of their collective work bear much in common. The fragmentation of the bodily form, and the intimacies within which the body is necessarily interpolated, sits at the core of both artists' output. The figural annihilation of abstraction in Whitehead's work is paired with the magnification (or amputation) of body parts in Beager's, but still more lingers: the emotional disjuncture present in many of Beager's intimate scenes proves reminiscent of the uncertainty born out of Whitehead's whirling lines or concentrated geometries.

Likewise, the body – its limitations, realities, and wonders – has consistently been an area of focus for co-curators Jacob Barnes and Morgane Wagner. A commonality to us all, the human body presents endless points for communal interrogation and reflection; its concerns remain, as always, our great equalizer. Yet, beyond a simple interest in the corporeal, this exhibition confronts a topic much more timely: as the public collectively continues to grapple with the pathologization of the body itself, Barnes and Wagner look to probe intimacy's place in collective constriction. While much is made of an

inability to live out otherwise normal social lives, *Fragmented Intimacy* draws to mind questions concerning constricted intimacy: does the discord presented here presage what is to soon to come, or instead act a reminder of what we will all soon consciously avoid?

For Editors

Amy Beager lives and works from her studio in Chelmsford, UK. She obtained a National Diploma in Art & Design (Distinction) in 2007 and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Nottingham Trent University in 2010. Beager was selected as a winner for the Delphian Gallery Open Call 2020 and started exhibiting her work in London in 2019. Her painting 'The Blue Room' is currently on display at Saatchi Gallery as part of the group exhibition 'Antisocial Isolation' curated by Delphian Gallery. Beager's work has been acquired by Soho House and placed in multiple private collections throughout Europe, Australia, USA, Taiwan and Canada.

C. Lucy R. Whitehead (b. 1991, Liverpool, UK) moved to London in 2010 to complete a BA (Hons) in Drawing at Camberwell College of Arts. Whitehead is currently in her final year of the MA Painting programme at the Royal College of Art. She is a recipient of the Basil. H. Alkazzi Scholarship 2019-2021. Previous exhibitions include the Pastel Society Annual Exhibition, Mall Galleries, London, and the Multiplied Art Fair, Frieze Art Fair, London.

Grove Collective was founded in late 2020 by Morgane Wagner and Jacob Barnes. The gallery works to exhibit exciting work from around the world, making art from a diverse range of practitioners available to an equally diverse collector base.

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