

CYDONIA

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PRESS RELEASE

CAROLINE MOUSSEAU: *ISOLATED ABSTRACTIONS* AT ART TORONTO 2016

DALLAS / TORONTO – CYDONIA is pleased to announce its premier at Art Toronto 2016, (re) presenting Canadian painter Caroline Mousseau to new audiences in her native country. In an introductory exhibition featuring a new body of work she calls *Isolated Abstractions*, viewers will be able to observe the young Vancouverite define her own vocabulary and forge an identity in painting.



Caroline Mousseau. *whirl*, 2016, oil on canvas, 21 x 17 inches.

Her process is strenuous, as Mousseau dries her oil paints, adding wax medium beforehand, to perfect the textured surfaces. Every painting, regardless of size, is painted with the same-sized paintbrush. Her revised impasto technique moves away from the canvas. The excess paint overflows beyond repeated movements, each stroke strengthening Mousseau's optical compositions. Every painting also begins with a unique underpainting; her color palette indicative of influences from Canadian AbEx, Colour Field, and landscape masters.

In *whirl*, Mousseau's develops a rich, midnight black background before stacking on the taupe abstraction. The glossiness of the oil paint which grounds the canvas exhibits movement, echoing the top layer of repeated, arabesque loops, creating a more dynamic experience for the viewer.

Her methodology produces a new tension that straddles the space between the past and present.

The structure and malleability of the medium is appropriated and co-opted by the artist to bring viewers up to this moment in time.

Caroline Mousseau graduated as the valedictorian of Emily Carr University of Art and Design in 2012. She studied at l'École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux-Arts in 2010.

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Mousseau has exhibited throughout Canada, and in 2014, she was curated in the exhibition *100 Painters of Tomorrow*, with an eponymous book launch, in London and New York. CYDONIA is extremely proud to announce a year of programming with all female artists, as Mousseau will mount her second solo exhibition with the gallery in 2017.

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CYDONIA is a contemporary art gallery dedicated to supporting careers of emerging artists whose practices have cultural and historical insight, conceptual rigor, or they are an original voice within their generation. CYDONIA programming unites with our stable through co-operative practices that underlie an imperative towards posterity. We value art as a cultural good related to praxis and discourse.

The gallery is open 11AM – 5PM Wednesday through Friday and from Noon – 5PM on Saturday. For more information, please contact info@cydoniagallery.com, call 214-296-4848, or visit www.cydoniagallery.com.