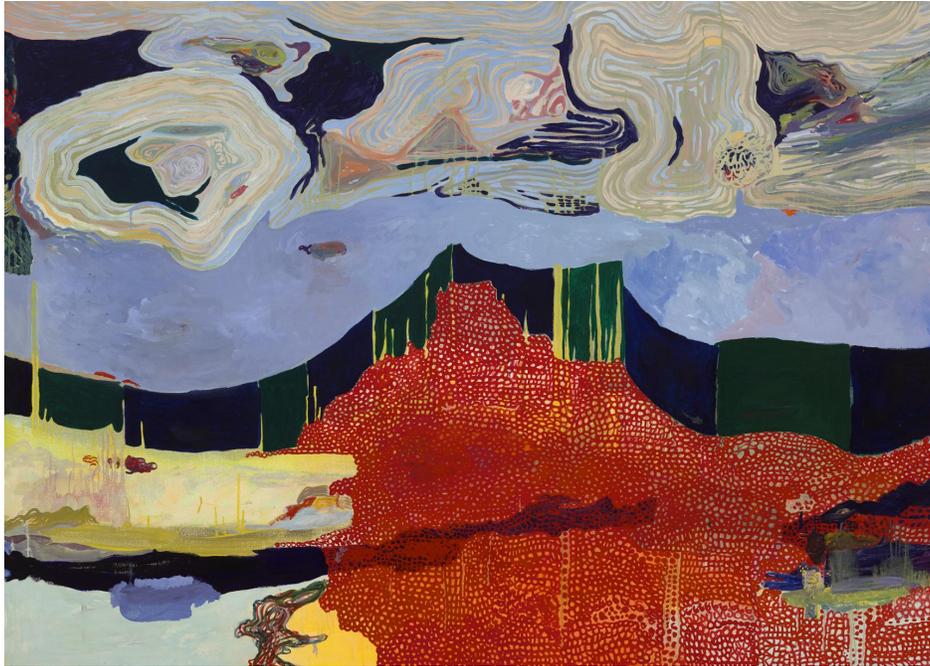


Eva Lundsager
Ovation

May 5 - June 11, 2023



Opening Day Reception
Friday, May 5, 6 to 8 pm

(March 30, 2023 – Brookline, MA) Praise Shadows is honored to present *Ovation* by Eva Lundsager, the artist's first solo exhibition in Boston. A painter who has exhibited internationally since her first show at the legendary Gracie Mansion Gallery in 1989, this body of work focuses on ten medium to large size oil on canvas paintings that celebrate atmosphere over representation, and the act of painting over the process of analyzing. The generously sized works are visual cues for the viewer to simply exist in front of a work of art. The artist encourages disassociating from categorizations and labels. Above all, *Ovation* is a celebration of experiencing art for art's sake.

"There is something compelling and challenging about working within the confines of a tradition," says Lundsager. "No special materials, no attempts to redefine the rules of painting, and instead just working to address the complexity of life on our planet as it is now, through the basic tools of paint and canvas."

The joy in the practice of expressive painting is evident throughout the works selected for this exhibition. Orbs levitate and appear to glow, shapes explode and collapse into themselves, whorls seem to coalesce and dissipate all at once. There is a sense of erosion, or excavation. These gestures and sensibilities are

exemplified in the large painting, *First Attempt* (2019, oil on canvas, 60x84 inches), an image that borders on the edge of recognition. Lundsager's characteristic upward paint-drips connect a fiery red mesh-like formation with a sky-blue and gray expanse above. Clarity is not the objective. Instead, her paintings encourage the viewer to let go of such goals, and to acknowledge that the act of engagement is enough.

In the sublime *We Are Quiet* (2021, oil on canvas, 24 x 24 inches), the painting inhabits a cool blue-white atmosphere. Joyful wisps of the brush dance exuberantly between blue and white. Lundsager punctuates that energy with jolts of red that appear to ooze dangerously close to the cool-toned revelry. There is no specific narrative that the artist is attempting to articulate. Rather, the painting, as in all of her work, should be thought of as a moment in time, one that has a before and an after. Leaning into the tenuousness of such moments, Lundsager reminds us to celebrate them all.

About the artist

Eva Lundsager has been exhibiting her art for more than three decades, including multiple solo shows in New York at the Greenberg Van Doren, Van Doren Waxter, and Jack Tilton galleries. Her work is in the permanent collections of the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nerman Museum of Contemporary Art, the St. Louis Art Museum, and the Whanki Foundation in Seoul, and it has been covered in *Art in America*, *Artforum*, *Bomb*, the *Brooklyn Rail*, the *New York Times*, the *New Yorker*, and *Time Out New York*. She attended the University of Maryland and received her MFA from Hunter College. After living in New York for sixteen years, she spent a decade in Saint Louis, MO, where she often watched the quickly changing weather and dramatic skies. In 2012 she moved with her family to Boston, where she maintains a studio in Framingham, and teaches painting at the School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University. Recent exhibitions include the 2019 deCordova Museum Biennial in Lincoln, MA; and *American Genre: Contemporary Painting*, curated by Michelle Grabner, at the Institute of Contemporary Art in Portland, ME. She is a Guggenheim Fellow in painting.

About Praise Shadows Art Gallery

Established in 2020, Praise Shadows Art Gallery is a commercial gallery space in the Boston area showing the work of emerging and mid-career artists. We believe that the art ecosystem is filled with untapped potential, and our work is grounded by partnering closely with artists to develop opportunities in emerging models of creativity and entrepreneurship — exhibitions, commissions, brand partnerships, new technologies, and original concepts that no one has ever tried before. Praise Shadows Art Partners advises artists and companies in the creative industries on strategic partnerships and marketing. Our work is local, global, and virtual.

www.praiseshadows.com

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PRESS CONTACT:

gallery@praiseshadows.com

Eva Lundsager

First attempt

2019

Oil on canvas

60 x 84 inches

Image courtesy of the artist and Praise Shadows Art Gallery