

## ***Justine Fisher: Breathing Room***

One Hour Ahead

Aspen, CO

One Hour Ahead is pleased to present *Breathing Room*, an exhibition of new paintings by Justine Fisher. Born in Cape Town, South Africa and based in New York City, Fisher is known for her large-scale oil paintings that blend abstraction and figuration, landscapes and domestic interiors, and the real and the uncanny. In her most recent work, Fisher creates a series of dense landscapes composed of layers of vibrant color, illusive forms, and varied texture. Each painting is marked by a distinct path, archway, window, doorway or light source that leads to a mysterious yet alluring space. Drawing from the natural world, Fisher explores the complexity of human consciousness through the concept of objectivity, asking “what is consciousness, what is awareness?” Over time, this awareness evolves conceptually, emotionally, and psychologically to an understanding that experience, as such, is constantly occurring. Fisher captures this concept by forgoing any clear linear narrative and instead constructs imagined environments that invite the viewer to become aware of their existence and the endless possibilities of their own imagination—spaces that create a prolonged sense of awareness.

The works featured in *Breathing Room* capture the transformative capacity of landscape, both real and imagined. Fisher’s compositions depict environments that are seemingly secretive and hidden yet invite the viewer into a world which is voluptuous and abundant while also impenetrable and dense. In *space* (2022), a thick wall of foliage is marked by a doorway that leads to an ethereal, celestial place. There is an unspoken invitation to engage and experience, something guiding and calling from beyond the doorway. Each painting bears this “allure,” the eye becomes drawn to the incredible detail of Fisher’s brushwork, of the complex winding roots of a tree in the foreground, or a light that seems to glimmer in the distance. The atmosphere is dense, invoking a place for the viewer to remain, to exist, to become aware, not to pass too quickly, and experience the much needed benefits of...breathing room.

Fisher received her MFA in 2013 from the New York Academy of Art, her BFA in 2010 from the School of Visual Arts, New York, and her BA in Art History in 2007 from New York University Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Her work has been featured in solo and group exhibitions organized by Goodman Gallery, East Hampton (2021), Lehmann Maupin, Aspen (2021); Weosky Gallery, Berlin, Germany (2013); New York Academy of Art, New York, NY (2013 and 2012); Sotheby’s, New York, NY (2011), and Phillips de Pury, New York, NY (2010).