



Karen Mahan



Philippa Beardsley

Meet Us at Twilight

Philippa Beardsley & Karen Mahan at Launderette Records

March 3 – 25 2023

Opening Reception: Friday, March 3 6-9 pm

Emily Royer and Launderette Records are pleased to present paintings by Philippa Beardsley and Karen Mahan in *Meet Us at Twilight*.

Please join us for the opening reception from 6-9 pm on Friday March 3. The exhibition will be open to view through March 25 during Launderette's regular hours Wed – Sat 12-6 and Sundays 12-4.

Through dense works on canvas and panel, Beardsley and Mahan transmute everyday experiences into worlds full of mystery and unseen forces, seducing and inviting the viewer to *Meet Us at Twilight* for a journey through the layers of paint to see through their eyes.

In Beardsley's hand, an observance of the setting sun or a walk around her neighborhood becomes a multitude of gestures, textures and colors recorded on top of one another. Her paintings contain representational elements but more important is recording the sensations of her days. She records the feeling of watching the last light peek through the blinds, looking out over the city from a rooftop, of watching disembodied heads pass by on a bus. She also paints of and with love, of spending time with her beloved cats, and meditations on family and loss. The result is a body of work that is a multi-sensory experience for the viewer who takes the time to look. In each painting, through a practice of building up and scraping away, of creating delicate layers and rough surfaces, Beardsley generously shares the simple but important and rewarding experience of noticing and deeply feeling the world around her.

Influenced by Celtic spirituality and animism, Mahan's work exists in a world where every being and object possesses a soul. Returning to her mother's home to care for her after a long absence, she paints rediscovered objects and places that are imbued with a lifetime of meaning and the heaviness that her current situation brings. Mahan's paintings evoke a long journey through the night, when spirits are given form and creatures whisper secrets. This new journey sits beside memories triggered by the view from a bedroom window, or a glimpse in the corner of an eye that fails to come into focus. The surface of her canvases are seductively gauzy and her palette evokes the light beams of a setting sun or the glow of a full moon. In her work, memories merge with a long gaze to reveal something that is neither past nor present but spectral and atemporal.

In a world that demands nothing less than perpetual movement from us all, Beardsley and Mahan ask you to sit, to dream, and to stay. To consider the thoughts that might unfold, the past that might be recollected, or the future that might be calling from a figurine in your mother's house or a piece of detritus on the city street.

Philippa Beardsley was born in New Jersey and currently lives and works in Philadelphia. She received her BFA from the University of the Arts and an MFA in Painting from the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts. Her work has been shown in galleries and institutions throughout the region including Gross McCleaf, Cerulean Arts, the Woodmere Art Museum, and Vox Populi. She has also shown in Europe and South Korea.

Karen Mahan was born in northern Virginia. She received her BA in Liberal Arts from VA Tech in 1994 and her MFA in Painting from The New York Academy of Art in 2004. In between degrees, she studied on a Merit Scholarship at the Art Student's League of NY. She lived in New York City for 23 years, and returned to her hometown (Leesburg, VA) in 2019 where she currently lives and works. She was an artist in residence at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Co. Monaghan, and the Cill Rialaig Artist's Retreat in Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry, Ireland. Her work has been shown in numerous group shows and belongs to numerous private collectors in the United States and abroad.