

MELINDA HACKETT

'hop on pop'

July 14th - August 12th 2018

**STANDARD  
SPACE**

**Standard Space** is pleased to present 'hop on pop', a solo show by **Melinda Hackett**.

Curated by **Douglas Turner**

**Melinda Hackett's** long-standing statement ends with mystery, "If there is a story to tell, it is up to the viewer to tell it." It is an open invitation for exploration. Just as nature beckons us with beauty and wonder as we seek to discover its secrets, but alas a never-ending exploration it has turned out to be. Her depictions of a colorful and imaginary something (call it a world, or a space) are micro and macro, both near and far. Upending the necessity of landscape structure, our perception of order and chaos find challenge. Whether it is her paintings or mono prints, Melinda's work translates a vibration. Color abounds in both muted and vibrant hues, motion is projected and a tactile sensory imbues our vision. Such incantations that find their way to paper are attributed to the artists chosen devotion.

This can be said to be an admirable position because it is a devotion to something that cannot be found, completely, but can be seen. And, mimicking something that I think is intrinsic to nature, her works also consist of properties that are not wholly known, and this is precisely the curiosities of nature which act as a lure for the unrevealed.

—**Douglas Turner**

My paintings refer to organic space and unfixed time. To call them landscapes would be misleading since they are poetic inventions of my imagination, and reference the world of nature rather than depict it literally. One of my purposes in making paintings is to transport the viewer to a necessarily foreign place, where nature can be experienced without knowing it fully, and where reality is communicated through the senses. I am involved in the play of interior and exterior space. On one hand; interior, intimate, house, personal-and on the other;

exterior, immense, universe, cosmos. My paintings represent both states, the near, the far, the view through a telescope, the view through a microscope, the sheltering sky, the

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intimate forest. My paintings create worlds full of images that float, hover, creep, spin, hang, roll or sleep in corners.

The images come from an internal source. They contain a vital impulse, and are alive as if subjected to breezes, weather and climatic conditions. My paintings represent states of non linear time. It is less that a singular event is taking place than that a group of different objects are moving through the picture plane at various rates of speed and in opposite directions, some gliding slowly and others whirring as if in a blender. Nature is not in a state of decay, nor is it symbolic or nostalgic for the past. The paintings are largely fragmentary in that they exist in one moment of time, so do they exist in one torn swatch of space. There is a sense that the activity continues outside the borders of the paintings as the forms flirt with the edges or get chopped off by them. Some forms are only just coming into being while others have already 'come out' and some just like to watch. By virtue of their inability to be fully identified, they remain in the realm of the poetic, a sum of images to form a whole, and the way they relate to each other is meant to be read experientially and not categorically. If there is a story to tell, it is up to the viewer to tell it.

—Melinda Hackett

**Douglas Turner** is a writer and activist who delves into the creative processes of artists across disciplines. He is the founder of the **AOT Project**—a nonprofit organization comprised of an Innovative Art Education program for Underserved Children, an Art Salon in Williamsburg, Brooklyn and the **AOT Journal for Art and Culture**.

**STANDARD SPACE** is a gallery in Sharon, CT exhibiting contemporary artwork by emerging and mid-career artists working across diverse media. Director Theo Coulombe founded Standard Space in 2017 to engage a conversation between artists in the New York - Connecticut region.

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