

Gentle Existential

A solo exhibition by Michelle Blade

September 15 - October 6, 2016

"In my dream I am looking at a busy urban city street scene. On the sidewalk beats my heart, it is floating above my body and I am watching both, as if they were pedestrians. I watch my suspended heart go for a walk with my body, following beneath it, sliding along as if on a moving sidewalk. While my heart continues to beat rhythmically through the city it moves out of my line of vision. My psyche and my sight, a separate duo, pan left. My psyche says to my sight, "gestalt", and I awake.

Brilliant Champions Gallery is pleased to present Gentle Existential, a solo exhibition by Los Angeles based artist Michelle Blade. Driven by the inescapable qualities of the natural world Blade's work investigates curiosity and one's search for meaning and place within the universe.

Following in the tradition of Romantic painters projecting the human psyche onto landscape, Blade creates sculptures and paintings examining the relationship between psychological and external space. Shifting between subjectivities, Blade also examines the concept of the empath, a person who soaks up the emotional environment around them and internalizes it. Combining these two perspectives, the work within Gentle Existential becomes a personal and geographic mythology, a figurative painter's feminine and empathic look at the parts versus the whole of experience—and subtle workings of the self within the world.

Michelle Blade is a visual artist whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally including some of our favorites like at Jack Hanley Gallery, SF; Roberts & Tilton, LA; Bravin Lee Gallery, NYC; Western Exhibitions, Chicago; The Center for Contemporary Art, Santa Fe; Union Gallery, London and V1 Gallery, Copenhagen among others. She has been featured and reviewed on NPR's All Things Considered, within The New York Times Magazine, The Los Angeles Times, The San Francisco Chronicle, as well as 7x7 and Juxtapoz Magazine. She is a 2007 recipient of the Murphy-Cadogan Fellowship, A 2X2 Pro Arts Grant, an Alternative Exposure SOEX Grant, and was a SFMOMA Seca finalist in 2010. Blade also works with RVCA as part of their ANP (Artist Network Program) and recently finished an artist in residency program at Facebook.

Gentle Existential opens at Brilliant Champions Gallery with a reception on Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 6-9pm and is open to the public. The exhibition runs through October 6, 2016 with open hours Tuesday through Saturday from 11am to 5pm and by appointment or chance.

Artist Statement

Driven by the inescapable qualities of the natural world Michelle Blade's paintings and installations investigate curiosity and one's search for meaning and place within the universe. Using exploration and the human condition as a broad starting point, Blade's psychedelic imagery pays homage to Romanticism while simultaneously referencing personal iconography, people, places and events she has known intimately. Heavy with symbolic imagery her saturated paintings depict meditative moments of solitude within transcendent landscapes, teetering between positive revelation and finding peace within a mysterious world.

For questions or inquiries please email jillian@brilliantchampions.com or call (646) 543-9591.

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