



Find and Keep
An exhibition of works by
Janine Iversen and Peter Shear
C L E A R I N G, New York
January 13 - February 10, 2024

Find and Seek situates Janine Iversen and Peter Shear in conversation as they exercise their own conceptions of what abstract painting is and what it can do. Between Iversen's large-scale optical situations and Shear's smaller odes to painting's infinite expressions, the exhibition revolves around uninhibited compositional models.

In his essay "Karl Valentin, Michael Krebber, Pablo Picasso," Friedrich Wolfram Heubach makes the case for a journey far outweighing its own resolution. He initiates the text by criticizing the fetishization of "fortuitous finding" as it relates to Picasso, in particular. While the artist once asserted "I do not seek. I find," Heubach maintains that "wanting to find something as an aim in itself can make you blind to what you are looking for." Accordingly, the possibility of fulfillment is ultimately weighed against one's experience of expectation.

Janine Iversen maintains a repertoire of moves, patterns, and motives. She tracks and executes certain optical qualities within her compositions, situating them alongside overt symbolics and associative possibilities. Fragments of perspectival givens commingle with near-incoherencies as a means for the artist to explore and demonstrate cognitive systems. Iversen is constantly solving puzzles that she either inherits or manufactures herself.

Peter Shear, too, possesses his own inventory of ideas – specializing in prioritizing the localized dimension and non-moralistic authorship. He has referred to his process as a matter of "reaching in the dark" in terms of working against the foibles of prescribed conventions. Shear consistently elides concrete style, instead exploring painting's relativity and his own response systems. Color, line, gesture and a self-guided understanding of history are the ingredients that make up these nomadic compositions.

Nebulosity is championed in the case of abstraction, its project largely revolving around an untraceable aspect. Compositional logics and idiosyncrasies unfold as the main characters here, as opposed to the recognizable image. Rather than depict a searched-for thing, an artist in this camp represents the exploration leading up to that thing. As such, this form of seeking is typified by its ongoingness and the act of painting becoming an indefinite roadmap of thought.