

Bryan Miller Gallery is pleased to present *Fables in Slang*, a solo exhibition by Houston-native, New York-based painter Jackie Gendel.

Gendel's exhibition title is lifted from an obscure but enduring work of vernacular moralist fiction, *Fables in Slang*, by American humorist George Ade. In the same way that Ade captured the spoken accents, expressions and social characterizations of late 19th c. American life in written language, Gendel constructs unlikely combinations (satires and pidgins) of the many modes of narrative and non-objective painting in use today.

As the show's title might indicate, some of Gendel's painting language is shorthand, as if painted in slang. These stenographic marks tend to fuse with a more 'well-mannered' painting, acknowledging the aspirational characters and qualities of painting that she both lampoons and fetishizes (often with the flick of a wrist). Her distinct subjects, capricious gestures and free-wheeling shifts between modes of painting draw on visual culture ranging from Rubens to Laurencin, with mischievous nods to the notion of "late style" (from "late Kirchner" to "late Picabia" and late 19th c. French painting) to the *mise en scène* of 1930's film, and the post-punk stylings of Siouxsie and the Banshees.

Over-all, it is important to note that Gendel's painterly fictions show no trace of consistent narration and no real protagonists. In fact, the narratives in her exhibitions tend to develop as much from the overall curation of each show as they do from the events and characters depicted in individual pieces. The actual fictions reveal themselves primarily in shifts between modes of painting, rather than within the boundaries of an individual image. As a way of telling these stories, Gendel "throws her voice" by observing and translating of the perplexing possibilities and limitations of contemporary painting. The final result of Gendel's process is neither final nor a 'result', but an active site of spontaneous painterly invention.

Jackie Gendel is represented by Bryan Miller Gallery, Houston and Jeff Bailey Gallery, NYC. Her recent exhibitions include "Vivid: Female Currents in Painting", Schroeder Romero & Shredder, NYC, "Rose Madder and the Ultramarines", Jeff Bailey Gallery, NYC, "Don't I Know You", Inman Gallery, Houston and a solo presentation at NADA art fair, Miami. Gendel was recently awarded a studio fellowship at the Marie Walsh Sharpe Foundation. She received her BFA from Washington University, St Louis (1996) and her MFA from Yale University (1998). Her work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Art in America*, *The New Yorker*, *Art Papers* and *Artforum*. Gendel lives and works in New York City.