

Widewalls

Cane, Hesper: Exhibition Review

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WIDEWALLS

Grace Weaver's Work Made During a Residency in Marfa Goes on View at Galerie Max Hetzler

Exhibition Reviews





In 2022, Galerie Max Hetzler presented a new space in Marfa, Texas, envisioned as a new exhibition spot and an artist residency. This year, Hetzler Marfa welcomed rising artist Grace Weaver as a resident and is now presenting artworks that resulted from the contemplation in this desert oasis.

Displayed in the main gallery and the artist's studio, the exhibition *Indoor Paintings* provides insight into Weaver's treatment of the canvas and her approach while working on paper. While oil paintings are on view at the gallery, the artist's biggest works on paper to date can be seen in the artist's studio and compose a detailed study of the psyche of remoteness.



Installation view of Grace Weaver: *Indoor Paintings* at Hetzler Marfa, 2023

Public Privacy

Grace Weaver explores the power of procrastination in a series of new paintings in which she suspends her recognizable characters in situations **between leisure and slumber**. Weaver, almost

voyeuristically, lets us observe the intimate moments of her figures as she chooses to depict the day-to-day rituals of relaxation. Still, if looking more closely, the images reveal instinctively chosen elements, such as phones, a laptop, snacks, bottles, and chargers, creating a "centrifugal" atmosphere. The mundane, thus, alludes to Weaver's sociological observation and transforms into a definition of a 21st-century framework.

The domestic structure Weaver explores in her paintings represents a concept imbued with **ambivalence**, which the expressionless figures further sustain. With the development of technology, our sense of privacy has changed much, opening a question of what it means to be alone in a world of permanent connectedness. The lone figures look impassively at their phones, only to be confronted with their reflection. In that moment of true isolation, the facets of ambiguity arise in conflicting feelings of relaxation and anxiety, ease and stress, that seem to exist in parallel.



Installation view of Grace Weaver: Indoor Paintings at Hetzler Marfa, 2023

Pigmenting Reality

Vermont-born Grace Weaver applies a technique of painting wet-into-wet, **exposing the process** and not negating the canvas. Individual brushstrokes can be easily identified utilizing the textures in her aesthetics. Weaver obtained an MFA from Virginia Commonwealth University in 2015. Weaver has showcased her work in numerous group exhibitions, and solo shows worldwide, including displays in New York, Berlin, Glasgow, and Chennai in India.

In 2019, concurrent solo exhibitions in Germany, O.K. at Kunstpalais Erlangen and Little Sister at Oldenburg Kunstverein, resulted in **the artist's first monograph** as a collaboration between the two institutions. Brooklyn-based Weaver has already entered museum collections, namely the collection of FRAC des Pays de la Loire in Carquefou, France; the ARoS Aarhus Art Museum in Aarhus, Denmark, the Pizzuti Collection of the Columbus Museum of Art in Columbus, Ohio; and the Museum Kunstpalast in Düsseldorf.



Installation view of Grace Weaver: Indoor Paintings at Hetzler Marfa, 2023

Grace Weaver at Hetzler Marfa

Lost in their thoughts or, more often, in their phone screens, Weaver's characters display a relatable and familiar behavior, transforming into our reflections. Such commentary may have come out of a primarily personal experience invoked by the sublime landscape of the desert, but it is a profoundly universal one.

The exhibition *Indoor Paintings* is on view at [Galerie Max Hetzler](#) in Marfa, Texas, until December 10th, 2023.

Featured images: Installation view of Grace Weaver: Indoor Paintings at Hetzler Marfa, 2023. All images by Brian Wancho, courtesy of Galerie Max Hetzler.