

Baumgardner, Julie, "See How Fast-Rising Painter Shara Hughes Creates Her Imaginative Landscapes,"
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See How Fast-Rising Painter Shara Hughes Creates Her Imaginative Landscapes

Galerie visits the artist's studio as she readies for her next big show with Rachel Uffner, timed to Frieze New York

Julie Baumgardner | March 19, 2019



Shara Hughes in her Brooklyn studio. PHOTO: DANIEL DORSA; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MAYSOON FARAJ

At the 2017 Whitney Biennial, a room dedicated to Shara Hughes's vividly colored invented landscape paintings mesmerized viewers. The artist's profile has only grown since; post-biennial, her paintings have tripled in auction value, and her work was included in group shows at Paul Kasmin, Peter Freeman Inc., and Almine Rech. Solo exhibitions were also held at Rachel Uffner and Eva Presenhuber (who both represent her), as well as at John Berggruen and Pace Prints. "I'm really trying actively to surprise myself every time I make a new painting," says Hughes, whose pieces toe the line between uncanny and accessible.

Though originally known for her Hockney-esque interiors, which came from "family issues I was going through," Hughes had an epiphany about her process that shaped her later works. "The minute I rejected the subject matter as the driving force to making paintings, I felt like I was really an artist for the first time," she says. "I was like, Oh, *this* is how you make paintings. You have to have an idea or an emotion or a feeling or a reason."

Hughes is busy in the studio creating new work for her next big show with Uffner, in May, timed to Frieze New York. The work will take up the question "How do I make a flower painting that's both ugly and beautiful?" she says. "Flower paintings have all this stigma about them."

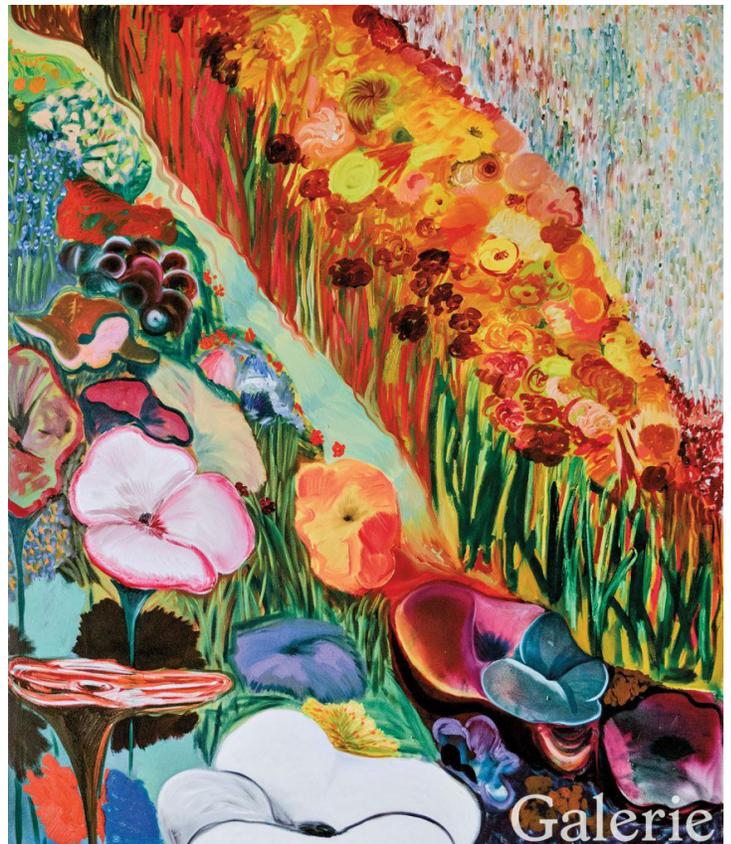
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Hughes's studio in Brooklyn. PHOTO: DANIEL DORSA



Hughes adding to a large-scale work. PHOTO: DANIEL DORSA; HAIR AND MAKEUP BY MAYSOON FARAJ



A detail of one of the flower paintings Hughes is working on for her new show at Rachel Uffner Gallery in New York. PHOTO: DANIEL DORSA