

HESSE FLATOW

Aglaé Bassens: *DOWNTIME*

May 25 – July 7, 2023

Opening reception: May 25, 6-8pm

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HESSE FLATOW is pleased to announce the opening of *DOWNTIME*, an exhibition of paintings by the Brooklyn-based artist Aglaé Bassens, marking her third solo presentation with the gallery.



Aglaé Bassens is interested in the overlap of the private experience with the communal one. While her paintings stem from her own memories, the imagery feels approximate enough to belong to anyone else's recollections. Calling attention to the overlooked and the everyday, each work begins with a photograph, either her own or found. Bassens siphons her personal memories, loading each image with feeling. At the same time, she edits and omits from each image, allowing it to be broad enough for anyone to identify with. Through her signature asymmetrical cropping and atmospheric treatment, she invites viewers to recognize something of their own in each painting.

Centering on the experience of being at home, *DOWNTIME* is made up of scenes of daily intimacy. A figure indulging in a cat nap, a takeout container-cum-wrapped gift, the undulating folds of a luxurious robe are a few motifs in Bassens's repertoire that exude an ease and effortlessness as quotidian as the snapshots upon which they are based.

In addition to connotations of leisure and relaxation meant to restore functionality, *DOWNTIME* expands upon feelings of melancholy and downheartedness coincident with malfunction. A crumpled lampshade, sliding curtains hanging from a broken rod, a neglected and algae overgrown aquarium all evoke a narrative sense of unease that is at odds with the calm of home; yet, in the seclusion of one's private space is where such flaws are permissible. This slippage between the private and the public is fertile ground for Bassens's practice, and an analogy for painting itself, made alone in the studio then exposed for all to see.

Aglaé Bassens (b. 1986, Belgium) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. Bassens has a BA in Fine Art from the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Oxford University (2007) and an MFA in Fine Art Painting from the Slade School of Fine Art, London (2011). Her work has been exhibited internationally, with solo presentations at the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami; HESSE FLATOW, New York, NY; 12.26, Dallas, TX; Nars Foundation, Brooklyn, NY; CRUSH Curatorial, New York, NY; and Cabin Gallery, London; as well as group exhibitions at Gowen Contemporary, Geneva; STEMS Gallery, Paris; The Valley, Taos, NM; and Workplace Gallery, London. Her work is featured in *New American Paintings No. 134 Northeast Issue* and in *100 Painters of Tomorrow* published by Thames and Hudson. Bassens's works can be found in the permanent collections of the Institute of Contemporary Art, Miami and Colección SOLO, Madrid, Spain.

Image: Aglaé Bassens, *Closet*, 2023, oil paint on canvas, 39 3/8 x 51 1/8 in (100 x 130 cm)