

## HESSE FLATOW

Israel, Nancy Cohen. "Madeline Donahue at HESSE FLATOW, New York City." Patron Magazine. March 31, 2023. Print.



From left: Madeline Donahue, *Nail polish*, 2023, oil on canvas, 46 x 36 in. Courtesy of the artist and Hesse Flatow; Madeline Donahue, *Dining Table*, 2023, colored pencil on paper, 17 x 14 in. Courtesy of the artist and Hesse Flatow.

## MADELINE DONAHUE at HESSE FLATOW, New York City

From snuggling with a toddler to the nightly challenge of making dinner, Madeline Donahue's work strikes a universal chord. While parenting is a constantly evolving experience, bouncing from triumph to trial and everything in between, rarely do these quotidian events find their way into contemporary art. For Donahue, however, they provide an endless supply of inspiration for her drawings, paintings, and ceramics.

The Houston-born Donahue currently lives in Brooklyn. At this year's Dallas Art Fair, she is the featured artist of New York-based Hesse Flatow. "Drawings are the core of her practice," explains gallery manager Rana Saner, adding that it is a medium that Donahue can balance with the responsibilities of motherhood.

The effects of the pandemic, with everyone at home and parents juggling childcare with their own work, puts this into sharp focus. "People feel so seen and represented in her images," Saner says.

Children respond to this work as much as their parents. Whether it is Donahue's vibrant use of color in the paintings, the familiar medium of colored pencil in the drawings, or the pure joy in the ceramics, her work is immediately accessible.

For Saner, the fact that Donahue brings herself to the canvas in myriad ways, between enjoying time spent with her children, doing household chores but also actively making art, makes her work especially poignant. "People open up when they see her work," she says, adding, "That level of connection is so strong." —Nancy Cohen Israel