

Heather Gwen Martin

30 October – 29 November 2014

Reception for the artist: Thursday, 30 October, 6–8 pm

Venice, CA – L.A. Louver is pleased to announce an exhibition of new paintings by Heather Gwen Martin. This marks Martin's first solo show with L.A. Louver, and is presented as part of the gallery's ongoing *Rogue Wave Projects* series that celebrates emerging artists.



Diving Bells, 2014
oil on linen, 37 1/2 x 35 in. (95.3 x 88.9 cm)

Heather Gwen Martin employs an intuitive approach to painting, allowing compositional elements to develop and evolve from the transference of energy directly onto the canvas. Through this visceral exploration, the artist creates a sense of dimensionality, where biomorphic forms and sinuous lines appear suspended in time and space. Loose yet highly controlled, her paintings convey a sense of movement that reverberates from varied shapes, and is intensified by a refined use of bold, undulating colors.

The interplay between shape and color veers between the obvious (brilliant contrasting tones and resolute forms) and the attenuated (subtle shifts in hues and ephemeral calligraphic lines). However disparate, these contrasting approaches serve to inform one another. Prominent colors bring to focus subtle undertones that are almost imperceptible upon first glance, while supple traversing lines move the eye in and around suspended shapes. In *Diving Bells*, a black organic form and soft frenetic lines in white and yellow contrast with deep red markings that emanate from a luminous red background. A series of pale paintings composed of subdued white tones represent a departure from Martin's vividly colored compositions. These paintings include *Snowshoes*, in which vibrant red lines activate warm and neutral white shapes that emerge from a cool white background.

Titles arise from a combination of Martin's thoughts, impulses and formal elements that come to light during the painting process. Although not meant to strictly define, the titles speak to the tone or nature of the paintings, and communicate a human connectedness to the work. "The paintings are quite reduced, but I wouldn't call them minimal," states Martin, "because they come from a feeling, a scenario, an event, where there is an energy very much related to the idea of being human."

Born in 1977 in Saskatchewan, Canada, Heather Gwen Martin studied at the University of California, San Diego and The School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Recent select group exhibitions include *NOW-ISM: Abstraction Today*, Pizzuti Collection, Columbus, OH; *MAS Attack 6*, Torrance Art Museum, Torrance, CA; *Rogue Wave 2013*, L.A. Louver, Venice, CA; and *The Very Large Array*, Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, CA. She currently lives and works in Los Angeles.

About Rogue Wave Projects

L.A. Louver initiated its *Rogue Wave* program to present emerging talent in Los Angeles, mounting group exhibitions in 2001, 2005, 2007, 2009 and 2013. Since that time, the gallery has organized solo *Rogue Wave Projects* with Eduardo Sarabia (2009), Olga Koumoundoros (2010), and Matt Wedel (2010). In 2013, the gallery launched its first international project with Australian media artist Grant Stevens; in December 2014, L.A. Louver will present a forthcoming show of photography and traditional painting and calligraphy by Chinese artist Chen Man. *Rogue Wave* will continue to provide a project- and exhibition-based platform of engagement with local and international contemporary artists.



Snowshoes, 2014
oil on linen, 36 x 32 in. (91.4 x 81.3 cm)

Concurrently on view at L.A. Louver, 30 October - 29 November 2014:

FIRST FLOOR

Tony Berlant: *Close to Home* -- An exhibition of new works by the Los Angeles-based artist. Berlant continues his exploration of tin and photographic materials, and pays homage to his longtime Santa Monica neighborhood with some of his most personal and intimate works to date. View a new short film on Tony Berlant at www.lalouver.com/berlant2014.

SKYROOM

Sui Jianguo: *Holly* (2014) -- Cast bronze sculpture by Beijing-based artist.