

Garrison Art Center

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For immediate release

An Opera of Canaries

Curated by James Siena

Group exhibition by recent MFA graduates from the School of Visual Arts and the Yale School of Art.

April 14 – May 6, 2018

Artist Talk: Saturday April 14, 4 - 5 PM

Opening Reception: Saturday April 14, 5 - 7 PM

GARRISON, NY
March 12, 2018

Garrison Art Center is pleased to present **An Opera of Canaries**, a group exhibition curated by James Siena and Becky Gordon, featuring drawings and paintings by Avner Chaim, Lauren Faigeles, Joe Hoyt, Andrew Jilka, Hye Soo Kim and Edwin Smalling. The exhibition will be on view in the Riverside Galleries from April 14 through May 6, 2018. An opening on Saturday April 14 will celebrate the artists and curator with an Artist Walk and Talk at 4 pm and reception to follow, from 5 to 7 pm.

Approached by Garrison Art Center's Becky Gordon, James Siena was challenged to organize a group exhibition of former graduate students from the School of Visual Arts and the Yale School of Art, two institutions where Siena has taught in the MFA programs. These two highly selective graduate programs attract artists of strong promise and talent and offer a supportive educational environment in which students can delve into their own studio activity and receive critical dialogue from instructors and peers. Siena's task was to select six former students – three graduates from each program - whose work would stimulate a visual conversation with one another. The work selected in the exhibition, entitled *An Opera of Canaries*, is the result of conscious collaboration between Siena, Gordon, and the artists. The exhibition is an opportunity to view drawing and paintings from the next generation of artists emerging from these two highly acclaimed art institutions.

A major criterion in selecting the artists (who may be loosely categorized as 'painters') was the presence of drawing as an integral, but also independent, part of their studio practice. The selection process of the works in the exhibition was interactive: in addition to Siena's picks, each artist has chosen one of Siena's drawings to be on view during the run of

the exhibition. An Opera of Canaries will include six drawings and three paintings from each participant, fifty-four works in total, plus the addition of James Siena's six drawings.

James Siena writes, "While each of these artists is fiercely independent and distinct, they all make paintings and drawings, with varied degrees of friction between the practices. It is hoped that the work of these six artists, seen together, in conversation, will stimulate the ongoing discourse in visual art, particularly art made by hand, by artists at relatively early phases of their careers, in this -very fraught-early twenty-first Century."

About the Artists:

Avner Chaim explosively churns out drawings that inform his densely packed large-scale paintings. Referencing a wide base of imagery, from fertility gods to early modernist sculpture, Chaim's forms constantly change in appearance and gain new meaning through different painterly solutions. Chaim received an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2017 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Lauren Faigeles raises the stakes when it comes to paper; while her painted work often includes text, it is fragmentary and formally integrated. Her 'drawings' are largely typewritten and presented in stacks; narrative, confessional, transgressive - and often very funny - they challenge the distinction between textuality and visuality, or reading and seeing. Faigeles received an MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2016 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Joe Hoyt's practice centers around drawing. His highly finished and intimate scale pieces are made of granular dots; at times depicting the way architecture and nature interact. His drawings and the paintings that result, question and challenge surface and illusion through the use of airbrush, tape, and rendering. Hoyt received his MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2017 and is currently living and working in Berlin, Germany.

Andrew Jilka's bright, colorful compositions also employ airbrush alongside traditional painting materials. The result is oftentimes to a humorous effect and bridges the gap between the painted and the drawn by painting on paper. Jilka thinks of his work as a distillation of collective nervousness, anxiety, and optimism. Jilka received an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2017 and is currently living and working in Brooklyn, NY.

Hye Soo Kim's paintings depict twisted aerial views of below landscapes each in a state of oscillation between the image and the rich intensity of

the paint in and of itself. In contrast, her drawn works appear at first to be notational, yet exist in a casually elegant alternate dimension to her paintings. Kim received an MFA from the School of Visual Arts in 2017 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

Edwin Smalling approaches drawing as a daily ritual that involves gestural repetition and time constraints. Conversely, his paintings consume time in a patient accumulation of mediated information and symbol. Smalling received his MFA from the Yale School of Art in 2016 and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, NY.

James Siena is an artist based in New York City and the Berkshires. He received his BFA from Cornell University in 1979. Siena creates paintings, drawings, sculpture, and prints and is represented by Pace Gallery in New York, Hiram Butler Gallery in Houston, and Galerie Xippas in Paris. He is an adjunct professor at the School of Visual Arts, where he has taught since 2006. His work is held in numerous private and public collections, including Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Museum of Modern Art, and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York. He has been awarded the New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship in Painting (1994), the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation Biennial Competition Award (1999), and an award in Art from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, New York (2000). He is a member of the Corporation of Yaddo, and sits on the board of Governors of the National Academy of Design.

An Opera of Canaries will be on view in the Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center from April 14 through May 6, 2018.

For all press inquiries and high-resolution images contact Becky Gordon:
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The Riverside Galleries at Garrison Art Center are open Tuesday through Sunday 10am to 5pm.

For more information about exhibitions and other programs please visit our website www.garrisonartcenter.org or call 845.424.3960