



Gensler Exhibition: Summer
University of Houston Graduate Student Exhibition: Let's Get Lost
July 2017 - December 2017

Let's Get Lost presents the work of 5 emerging artists as they set out to find their way in the landscape of 21st century art and culture. The selected artists have certain affinities in their work and attitudes, all encouraged among one another throughout their time in the graduate program at the University of Houston. Intentionally getting lost with friends always leads to finding truths in the world and in oneself. We are lost in summer, lost in the dizzying world of images and abstraction, lost in the art of our time, and lost in finding ourselves. Each of these artists, in their own way, is aware of the possibility of the search.

In the reception niche, Dylan Conner challenges the viewer to look twice at that which we barely notice. He has a fondness for subtle adjustments and quarter turns that serve to reshuffle our assumptions and restore our awe of the truly ordinary. Simple building materials, banal fixtures, and the rhythm of construction are all knife sharp tools in his formidable system to create sculptures similar to *Broken Column*.

In the conference corridor, Erika Harper is on a cool hunt for the fantastic in plain sight. She has a keen eye for the collision of colors and images, and she makes careful notes of events to be replayed later in her well-distilled paintings. Always fetching, and sometimes fabulous, her color forms are reminders of the deep play that is there for all of us. This series creates a dynamic relationship with Rose Stern's strange and alluring painted bouquets. Gathering objects that she can touch, and images from the distant sky and land, she creates arrangements that play on the viewer's perception. Her paintings demonstrate that asking the question is its own reward, and finding an answer is always another beginning.

Amanda Schilling and Rajab Sayed both study human relationships and interactions within the executive corridor. Schilling is searching for the location of self within the shifting identities required of every woman navigating her way through contemporary life and culture. Her crystal-clear photographs of friends and colleagues in the midst of life events ask us to wonder who that person is—and by extension who are we. Her work calls the viewer to reflect on how identity is created and what is assumed when we encounter one another in our various roles. Inevitably we come to understand that we are always searching for our "self," and for each other. We are forever being found, forever getting lost, and always becoming together. Similarly, Sayed paints to catch the fleeting moments of youth, beauty, and relationships, to hold them close and make them last as if they've always been, and always will be. Born of photography, the paintings are frozen moments made to stretch time as only a painting can.

Let's Get Lost was organized on behalf of Gensler by Kinzelman Art Consulting and curated in tandem with Aaron Parazette, Associate Professor of Painting at the University of Houston. For additional information about the exhibition, please call Kinzelman Art Consulting at 713-533-9923 or visit www.kinzelmanart.com.