

For Immediate Release

Harsh Collective

May 7th - 10th

Chelsea Industrial

535-551 W 28th St, New York, NY 10001



Catie Cook, *Life Upon the Wicked Stage*, 2024, oil on canvas, 72 x 54 inches

New York, NY - Harsh Collective is pleased to announce *Curtain Call*, a trio presentation at Future Fair, featuring Catie Cook, Masha Morgunova, and Rosabel Rosalind. The booth, which examines the complex relationships between truth, perspective, and performance through innovative approaches to framing, will be on view from May 7th to 11th at booth U14 at Chelsea Industrial.

Each artist employs distinct theatrical devices that transform viewers from passive observers into active participants, subtly challenging traditional power dynamics of viewership and representation. These intentions are further realized by the interactive booth featuring paintings, drawings, and custom theater flats.

Cook's trompe l'oeil stage curtains create an intimate dialogue between viewer and subject, simultaneously drawing us in while acknowledging the artifice of the staged scene. Morgunova demonstrates her impressive range of mediums by adding frames and sculptural elements that push her paintings beyond traditional boundaries, lending both literal and emotional depth to her ethereal, stoic figures who refuse simple categorization. Rosalind's incorporation of set design elements – flat wooden

stage decorations that accompany her painting and drawing installations – extends the artwork into the viewer’s physical space. By constructing environments that viewers can step into, she creates an immersive reality while using theatrical flats to maintain a conscious awareness that the work is fiction.

“In a moment where politics feel increasingly theatrical,” explains Etta Harshaw, founder of Harsh Collective, “ it is vital that viewers remember their agency. *Curtain Call* reminds us that even as audiences, we can see how perspectives are established and maintained and how we can explore these circumstances critically to restore hope and diminish despondency.”

Through their varied approaches to framing and staging, these artists explore how perspective shapes truth while quietly subverting traditional modes of representing and viewing their subjects. Their work reminds us that in both art and life, how we frame our perspective fundamentally shapes what we see and understand as reality.

About Catie Cook

Catie Cook is a painter raised in Gainesville, GA. She earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from The University of Georgia with a BFA in Studio Art, Art History, and Museum Studies in 2023. She is currently a Master of Fine Arts Candidate at Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts in St. Louis, Missouri. Cook’s paintings question how our patriarchal society demands performance and perfection. Inspired by her upbringing in the American South, surrounded by the pageantry of the church, debutante culture, and beauty pageants, Cook’s paintings harness the symbol of the stage as a metaphor for the performativity of gender. Drawn to the language of theatre, she paints highly idealized imagery and carefully constructed scenes that, though imitating reality, often feel eerie and artificial.

<https://www.catiecookart.com/>

About Masha Morgunova

Masha Morgunova is a multimedia artist based in New York. Her recent work explores Weltschmerz and how being exposed to the pain of our world can affect individual and collective states of being. Morgunova graduated with honors in Studio Art from Earlham College (Richmond, IN) and was awarded residencies at La Macina Di San Cresci (Tuscany, Italy), SVA: Contemporary Arts Practices (New York, USA), Cuttyhunk Island Artist Residency (Town of Gosnold, MA), and Vermont Studio Center (Johnson, VT). Her works are held in private collections in the US, Italy, Russia, France, and Belgium.

<https://mashamorgunova.com/CV-Bio>

About Rosabel Rosalind

Rosabel Rosalind was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, Rosabel Rosalind is an artist who uses a combination of drawing, painting, and comics. Rosalind builds fictional worlds that render the familiar strange and collapse the past, present, and future into a sublime mythology. In her studio, she is concerned with fusing the boundaries between history and mythology, sacred and profane, good and evil, etc. Her work uses humor, melodrama, and the uncanny to encourage close looking, illuminates the idiosyncrasies of the mundane, and celebrates the mysteries of the human condition.

<https://rosabelrosalind.com/>

About Harsh Collective

Harsh Collective is an artist-first gallery that amplifies emerging contemporary artists' voices and offers a bespoke platform where collectors, artists, and guests are all welcome. Harsh Collective brings the artist's story to the forefront of the art world, offering a creative space driven by community.

www.harshcollective.com

About Future Fair

Future Fair grew out of the desire to build a capsule sized platform for galleries participating in a global art market. First launched in 2020 during the global pandemic, Future Fair established its roots in New York City in 2021 amidst an art market boom. The May 2025 edition at Chelsea Industrial will mark the fair's 5th anniversary.

<https://futurefairs.com/>