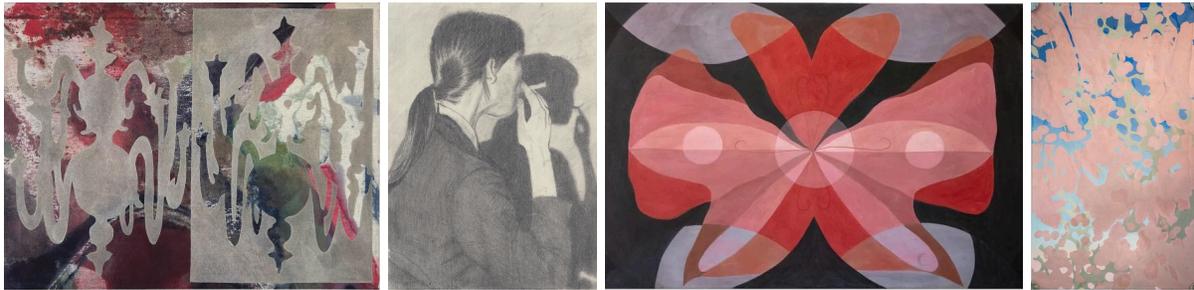


For Immediate Release

Harsh Collective Graduates the Affordable Art Fair Fellowship With Third Edition

September 17th–21st

Booth F1, Starrett-Lehigh Building, 601 West 26th St, New York, NY 10001



Jacky Boehm, *Velvet Shadow*, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 22 x 28 inches

Olivia Chigas, *Salome Smoking Study*, 2024, Graphite on paper, 11 x 8 inches

Katie Leimbach, *A Wish and a Kiss Sent to the Moon*, 2025, Acrylic on canvas, 28 x 40 inches

Mary Royall Wilgis, *Light From the Same Tree, 8:45 pm*, 2024, Oil on canvas, fabric, metal, 52 x 30 inches

New York, NY - Harsh Collective is pleased to announce *Silhouette*, a group presentation at the Affordable Art Fair New York Fall 2025 edition, featuring Jacky Boehm, Olivia Chigas, Katie Leimbach, and Mary Royall Wilgis. The booth, which explores the play between figuration and abstraction, will be on view from September 17th to 21st at booth F1 at the Starrett-Lehigh Building.

The featured artists in *Silhouette* depict varying degrees of abstraction through their treatment of form. There's a transcendence that occurs as the works move further from naturalistic depiction which allows viewers to appreciate the narrative, Impressionistic, and geometric implementations of abstraction.

Chigas's female figures face away from the viewer, obscuring their identity and obfuscating the tone and context of the work. While in the realm of the representational, Chigas's withholding of information functions as a form of abstraction in a border sense. Royall Wilgis' colorful compositions portray shadows cast upon various surfaces, painting not light itself, but its absence and its reflection. More than objects, Boehm depicts their transformations. The majority of each composition exists in an imaginary in-between state, questioning the relationship between form, fact, and function. Leimbach breaks objects, sentiments, and situations into shapes. Through delicate linework and palettes, Leimbach seems to transcend the objective world and speak instead to a universal truth.

“Silhouette is a product of my experiences at the Affordable Art Fair,” describes Etta Harshaw, founder of Harsh Collective. “Lying on the fringes of representation, the featured works balance traditional subjects and artistic style, combining the eternal and the contemporary. Any of these artists is a great pick for the first-time collector, a demographic the Affordable Art Fair never fails to reach.”

Early advocates of abstract art describe the historical progression towards naturalism as a result of the human desire to define and classify the world around them. In contrast, abstraction represents a drive to express the intangible—the spirit. *Silhouette* examines the interplay between essence and image, inviting viewers to let go of the desire for information and begin to explore the ambiguity that naturally becomes a part of the viewing experience.

About Jacky Boehm

Jacky Boehm (b. 1995, Portland, OR) is a Brooklyn-based artist who creates abstract representational paintings. She explores the romantic details of everyday life and themes of transformation through amorphism and direct symbolism. Her artistic process is a dual system of discovery and reaction, allowing fluid backgrounds to organically take form before applying contrasting figurative motifs.

About Olivia Chigas

Olivia Chigas (b. 1993, New York, NY) is a New York-based painter whose work explores isolation and longing, from a feminine perspective. Blending early modernist styles through cinematic lens, her figures are often turned away or lost in thought, evoking the quiet tension with an emotional intimacy that comes through the female form. Chigas' figures embody a sensual strength, tempered with introspection; subjects inhabit spaces both familiar and surreal. The close-cropped compositions feel reminiscent of film stills, as if her figures are part of a larger story—one that remains just out of reach.

About Katie Leimbach

Katie Leimbach (b. 1995, Portland, OR) is a Brooklyn-based painter who has always been drawn to the quiet beauty of the natural world, finding inspiration in its subtle details. Whether it's the way light dances on water or a butterfly landing softly on a flower, these small moments have shaped her artistic journey. Growing up between Arizona and Oregon, Katie's work carries the imprint of both landscapes. Through her work, Katie aims to capture the emotions tied to experiences of nature, mixing personal memories with the dreamlike imagery that often emerges in her mind. Each brushstroke holds a piece of the past, present, and future—an ongoing exploration of how reality and imagination collide. Leimbach invites viewers to explore surreal landscapes where the boundaries between the real world and the dream world blur, offering a chance to dive into their own subconscious.

About Mary Royall Wilgis

Mary Royall Wilgis (b. 1997, Baltimore, MD) is a light painter based in Brooklyn. Her work is a meditation on the texture of time and the thing-ness of light. She begins her practice by “light foraging,” a plein-air process where she finds and captures shadows by placing canvas on surfaces and tracing the impression of light. To honor the moment in time, she titles her paintings with the time or location where the light was “foraged”. Wilgis explores the personality of the light through thin layers of oil paint and hand-cut translucent mesh. The overlaid layers of fabric give it a distinct sculptural quality that makes the work respond to its environment by interacting with the present light sources, creating light and shadow within the world of the painting itself, exploring how light can shape space, measure time, and define color.

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 Affordable Art Fair

Since its founding in London in 1999, Affordable Art Fair has grown into a global platform for contemporary art, held in 15 cities worldwide. The Fair attracts over 250,000 annual visitors, offering an approachable environment for both seasoned and novice collectors to discover original works by emerging and established artists.

www.affordableartfair.com

About the Affordable Art Fair Fellowship

The Fellowship Program was introduced in the Spring of 2023 and is an initiative inviting Greater New York arts organizations founded within the last ten years to submit a curatorial proposal to participate as an exhibitor in a dedicated Fellowship booth. Awarded applicants are invited to participate free of charge for three consecutive editions of Affordable Art Fair NYC.

www.affordableartfair.com/fairs/new-york-fall/nyc-fellowship-program