

Jenny Gagalka

Pop Secret

June 3 – July 22, 2023

Los Angeles

Paul Soto is proud to announce *Pop Secret*, a solo exhibition of new paintings by the Los Angeles based artist Jenny Gagalka. This is the artist's first exhibition with the gallery. A public reception for the artist will be held on Saturday, June 3 from 5 to 8 pm in our Los Angeles location, and the exhibition will run in the office through Saturday, July 22nd.

For her first exhibition at the gallery, Jenny Gagalka presents a suite of still lifes of seemingly ordinary boxes. These boxes are all depicted in vibrant shades of blues, yellows, whites, grays, pinks, and purples. They are arranged in singular, sibling, and stacked compositions, filling the picture plane and spilling out from the edge. The boxes' flaps face out towards the viewer and are agape. She intermingles surface and interior painted space via foreshortening, obscuring or revealing the boxes' interiors. Some are only slightly ajar, others are wide-mouthed, and then others are seemingly torn open with fully exposed insides.

As in her last series, Jenny works by obsessively and repeatedly painting the same object in the studio. The paintings function as a sort of record keeper that renders a different psychological temperature each time. Her approach is painterly and verges on abstraction, animating her subject matter into a lively state through high velocity, almost frenetic applications of Flashe. She manipulates light, shape, scale, and orientation in each work, producing distinctive projective sites, moribund yet possessing signs of life.

Pop Secret, the title of the exhibition, refers to the mass-market popcorn brand whose packaging, designed to be maximally visible in the world, Jenny depicts here. The paintings, with their qualities of touch and distance, move between intimacy and detachment, those sensations that seem to always follow early seduction and beckoning.

Jenny Gagalka (b. 1984 Vancouver) lives in Los Angeles. She received an MFA in Painting & Drawing from UCLA in 2018. She has attended residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, Ox-Bow in Michigan, and The Mountain School of Art in Los Angeles. Previous solo exhibitions include Towards Gallery, Toronto; Good Weather Gallery, Little Rock, Arkansas; and Ltd., Los Angeles, with former drawing collaborative En Plein Air; and group exhibitions at Human Resources, Los Angeles; and Páramo, Guadalajara; among others.

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