

Ser Serpas
Tool
October 28 – December 9, 2023
Opening Reception Saturday October 28, 2023
6-8PM

Maxwell Graham is pleased to present Ser Serpas' *Tool*.

Ser Serpas makes sculptures and paintings. She writes poetry. Sometimes, she makes performances. The crucial character of the artist's work: freedom. Critic Ingrid Luquet-Gad observes "her practice, given its diversity, might be more easily circumscribed by what it isn't: identifiable, classifiable, representative, enduring, solid, wordy."

For her first solo exhibition at the gallery, *Tool*, Serpas uses paintings to make other paintings. With pigment still wet, she applies one surface to another. The image undergoes cellular mitosis, it cleaves off a part of itself; becomes anew. The second painting is an impression of the first, it is also a memory. Serpas' gesture rushes and drifts. Her mark making can be seductive and miraculous, it can also be insufficient and blunt. As the image travels from surface to surface, these marks are reproduced and corrupted in a process of epidemic contagion. The image is defiled and suspended. The artist creates. The artist destroys.

In earlier works, Serpas painted iPhone images of past lovers, and before-and-after pictures from cosmetic surgeries. In the new paintings, she depicts bodies generated by artificial intelligence. The figures represented are improbable, yogic contortions of limbs and torsos, often headless. The paintings refuse the conventions of the figure, Serpas draws out another body: interstitial, contingent, and structured by disorder.

The works on view are installed without clarity or distinction. Paintings veil or shroud each other. Their presentation is spatially disagreeable, antagonistic, and delights the artist.

With each new exhibition, Serpas' work lurches. Current exhibitions confound those she has left behind, past exhibitions confound those that lie before her. This too delights the artist.

-Quinn Harrelson

Ser Serpas was born in Los Angeles in 1995. She currently lives in New York City. Serpas received degrees from Columbia University in New York and HEAD in Geneva. Her solo exhibition, *I fear (J'ai peur)*, is currently ongoing at Pinault Collection, Bourse de Commerce in Paris. Previous institutional exhibitions include a solo exhibition at Swiss Institute in New York and group exhibitions at Musée d'art moderne et contemporain Genève, Switzerland; Bonner Kunstverein, Bonn, Germany; Haus am Waldsee, Berlin, Germany; Istituto Svizzero, Rome, Italy; Centre d'Art Contemporain Genève, Switzerland; Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, California; Punta della Dogana, Venice, Italy; Kunsthalle Fribourg, Switzerland. Earlier this year a monograph on her work, *By The Highway*, was published by Distanz Verlag, Berlin. In 2024 Serpas will have a solo exhibition at the Fridericianum in Kassel Germany.

Ser Serpas *Tool* will be on view at 55 Hester Street in New York City from October 28 – December 9, 2023, Wednesday - Saturday 11AM - 6PM.

Maxwell Graham
New York City