

J A S O N H A A M

Ella Kruglyanskaya: The Best Arrangement

Press Release

Jason Haam Gallery, 73, Seongbuk-ro 31-gil, Seongbuk-gu, Seoul, 02879, Korea

December 2, 2023 – January 18, 2024

“The woman looks back. I cannot escape the (male) gaze: it was there before I got here. I engage with it and offer some resistance. [...] It is possible to feel the pleasure of being looked at and the resentment of being objectified.” — Ella Kruglyanskaya

Jason Haam Gallery is pleased to announce *The Best Arrangement*, an exhibition of new works by Ella Kruglyanskaya. The show, which will be the first solo exhibition with the gallery, will open on December 2, 2023 and remain on view through January 18, 2024. The 9 paintings on view are dedication and significant advances from the artist’s painterly style.

Known for her stylized figuration, Ella Kruglyanskaya’s paintings almost exclusively portray women. They are representative of the artist’s experienced or expected womanhood. In a nod to the controversial representations of women in visual history, Kruglyanskaya’s full-figured women are hardly unnoticed as they loom larger than life, aggressively occupying the canvas. They are in the midst of an ongoing situation, and they often look back at the gaze of an unseen viewer. Elements of drawing both in general and particular to the artist’s practice reflect the forgiving nature of such act and suggest a way of negotiating such gaze emotionally. In the end, it is what the viewers “feel” through her figures, instead of the narratives these figures “tell.” Kruglyanskaya’s figures painted with expressive brushworks, echoing the gestural canvas behind them, have been an extension and a development of her painterly style. As a way of escaping complacency of her own production, her recent trompe l’oeil still lifes and obtrusive stroke of paint overlaying the figures issues the necessity of self-criticism and endless negotiations through the dramatic process of painting over—to get over what came beforehand.

Ella Kruglyanskaya (b. 1978, Riga, Latvia) received MFA at Yale School of Art, and currently lives and works in New York. Her solo exhibitions were staged at Bortolami, New York; Thomas Dane Gallery, London; Tate Liverpool, Liverpool, UK; Gavin Brown’s Enterprise, New York and Rome. Works by Kruglyanskaya is included in Tate Collection, London, UK, and have been shown in group exhibitions at The Issac Bell House, Providence, Rhode Island; The Aishti Foundation, Beirut, Lebanon; Contemporary Art Centre, Riga, Latvia; The Baltic Triennial, Vilnius, Lithuania; The Elmhurst Art Museum, Elmhurst, Illinois; The Hepworth Wakefield, Hepworth, UK; Pace Gallery, London, UK; and the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive.