



ALEX GRIFFIN PASSAGES

NOVEMBER 2, 2021 – JANUARY 7, 2022



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Living and working in East Falls, Philadelphia, Alex Griffin draws inspiration from his surrounding environment to create ethereal figures traveling through landscapes and past rowhouses. The show's title, *Passages*, suggests passages of time as well as physical journeys. Rendered with minimal detail and without facial features, Griffin's figures convey universal familiarity, and appear to float, drift, and glide through the picture planes on their way to undefined destinations.

Characteristic of Griffin's work, each of the paintings uses a flattened perspective. The oil paint — which the artist often mixes with a wax medium — is applied in sweeping brush strokes, then scraped, layered, and erased. The completed surfaces are texturally built-up and captivate viewers by their quiet, hazy atmospheres. Adding to the works' elusive qualities, their shallowness creates an engaging ambiguity of space.

Distant figures are caught sight of not only on solid ground, but etched into the sky through trees or hovering above rooflines. Several paintings feature faint imprints of humans, animals, and objects — in one case, a tall-masted ship.

Describing his process, Griffin notes: "I'm drawn in by the beauty of old buildings, the secret history left within the structures and the people who previously or currently inhabit them." Indeed, many works are reminiscent of memories or snapshots. Individual titles, such as *Newport Sisters, 1994*, and *June's Flowers*, recall specific people or time periods, and invite viewers to ponder the histories of the subjects and the relationships between one another. The paintings are visually bound by a cohesive color palette of cool greys, greens, and blues.

Finally, the exhibition's title suggests the emotional, intangible voyage on which Griffin leads the viewer. Past one building to the next, through planes of color and patches of texture, across a field and into a forest, *Passages* guides onlookers through Griffin's world.

— NANCY MARGOLIS GALLERY

WINTERTIDE

2021

Oil and wax on panel

36 x 36 inches



SUNDAY

2021

Oil and wax on panel

20 x 20 inches



RIDGES AT DUSK

2021

Oil and wax on panel

24 x 30 inches



WINTON STREET

2021

Oil and wax on canvas

12 x 12 inches



RITTENHOUSE SQUARE

2021

Oil and wax on panel

20 x 20 inches



PASSAGES

2021

Oil and wax on panel

24 x 24 inches



JUNE'S FLOWERS

2019

Oil and wax on panel

12 x 12 inches



NEWPORT SISTERS, 1994

2020

Oil on panel

18 x 18 inches



ROXBOROUGH (VIOLET)

2021

Oil and wax on panel

12 x 12 inches



CORRIDOR (WHITE TREE)

2021

Oil and wax on panel

36 x 36 inches



ROANOKE

2019

Oil and wax on panel

18 x 18 inches





My recent practice begins by gathering images from outside sources, such as a film still or a photograph I have taken while walking through Philadelphia and the surrounding landscape. I'm drawn in by the beauty of old buildings, the secret history left within the structures and the people who previously or currently inhabit them. I initiate my process with these elements and a hazy image of a finished piece.

However, the painting itself always takes over, and after weeks, months or years of layering, scraping, and erasing, the final painting reveals itself.

— ALEX GRIFFIN



EDUCATION

2008 B.F.A. Painting & Printmaking, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA

SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Passages*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, online
Hidden Threads, HOT BED Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Up Against the Wall, Awbury Arboretum, Philadelphia, PA
12x12x12, The Art Trust, West Chester, PA
- 2020 *Please Do Not Touch*, LOUP.NYC, online
Scarlett Thicket Barn Studio, Chester County Studio Tour, Kennett Square, PA
Peripheries, Central Tattoo Studio, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 *First Encounters*, PII Gallery, Philadelphia, PA
Portraits, Pagus Gallery, Norristown, PA
No Stone Unturned, Spillway Collective, Philadelphia, PA
The Woodmere 78th Annual Juried Exhibit, Woodmere Art Museum, Philadelphia, PA
GIFC Philadelphia, Pilot Projects, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 *Ritual and Identity*, Ann Street Gallery, Newburgh, NY
First Date, Automat Collective, Philadelphia, PA
PAM Exhibition, Mainline Art Center, Haverford, PA
- 2017 *Annual Fall Show*, Perkins Center for the Arts, Moorestown, NJ
Reflective Pool, The Cluster Gallery, Brooklyn, NY
Art Mora Summer Group Show, Ridgefield Park, NJ
- 2011 *Artomatic*, Crystal City, VA
Gallery 788, Baltimore, MD
- 2008 *Interaction 32*, FAB, Richmond, VA
All Mixed Up, Gallery 5, Richmond, VA

ASSOCIATIONS

2017-19 The Professional Artist Membership (PAM) Program, Mainline Art Center, Haverford, PA



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www.nancymargolisgallery.com
margolis@nancymargolisgallery.com

