



**SARAH LUBIN** STAYING IN

MARCH 2 – APRIL 16, 2021







**S**taying In presents nine paintings by artist Sarah Lubin of quiet figures arranged within interior settings. Working in a Mannerist style of painting, Lubin's oil and acrylic compositions depict lithe women with elongated limbs. The environments they occupy are ambiguous, made up of geometric planes and patterns. Stage-like, the flattened settings function more as backdrops to highlight the characters than representations of specific rooms. Within these painted parameters, the artist captures her subjects mid-gesture, freezing their actions indelibly. Similar to figures cast in marble and bronze, Lubin's statuesque figures appear solid, yet dynamic; suspended, yet on the verge of motion.

Lubin states that her "choreographed figures function as architecture in the space, defining the composition through varied poses." Indeed, the artist's depicted postures become — in themselves — the subjects of her paintings. Outstretched legs rest on other figures' laps and furniture, creating diagonal lines through the picture-planes. Arms — folded, limp, reaching, and raised — further divide the compositions into grid-like networks.

Lubin focuses our attention on subtle, passing moments we wouldn't ordinarily pause to consider. A hand is poised over a checker piece, about to make its next move (*A Green Thought in a Green Shade*); a woman pushes hair from her face (*Translation*); another turns on a lantern, casting a sharp wash of yellow-green light (*Shadowings and Gleamings*).

What becomes strikingly clear in Lubin's work as we move from one painting to the next is what her figures are *not* doing: engaging or verbally interacting with one another. Most of the works in *Staying In* contain two or more people occupying the same space. However, despite their proximity to one another, these figures remain cool and detached. Inwardly focused, they are absorbed by solo activities and thoughts. Eyes never make contact and torsos never face each other. The subjects are illuminated in casts of color, as though artificially lit. *Rehearsal*, for instance, is painted in shades of scarlet. A woman emerges from behind a draped curtain, underscoring Lubin's theatrical motifs. At a time when "staying in" has become an all-too-familiar activity, Lubin's performance-like paintings elevate the experience of the indoors and invite viewers to reinvent the everyday.

— NANCY MARGOLIS GALLERY, 2021

**A GREEN THOUGHT IN A GREEN SHADE, 2020**

Oil on panel  
40 x 40 inches



**ALL THAT WE SEE OR SEEM, 2020**

Oil on canvas  
48 x 36 inches





**FRONT PORCH, 2020**

Oil on canvas

36 x 60 inches

**HEAT WAVE, 2020**

Oil on canvas  
36 x 48 inches





**LOAFER**, 2020

Acrylic on canvas

12 x 9 inches



**REHEARSAL, 2020**

Oil on canvas  
36 x 48 inches



**SHADOWINGS AND GLEAMINGS, 2020**

Acrylic on canvas

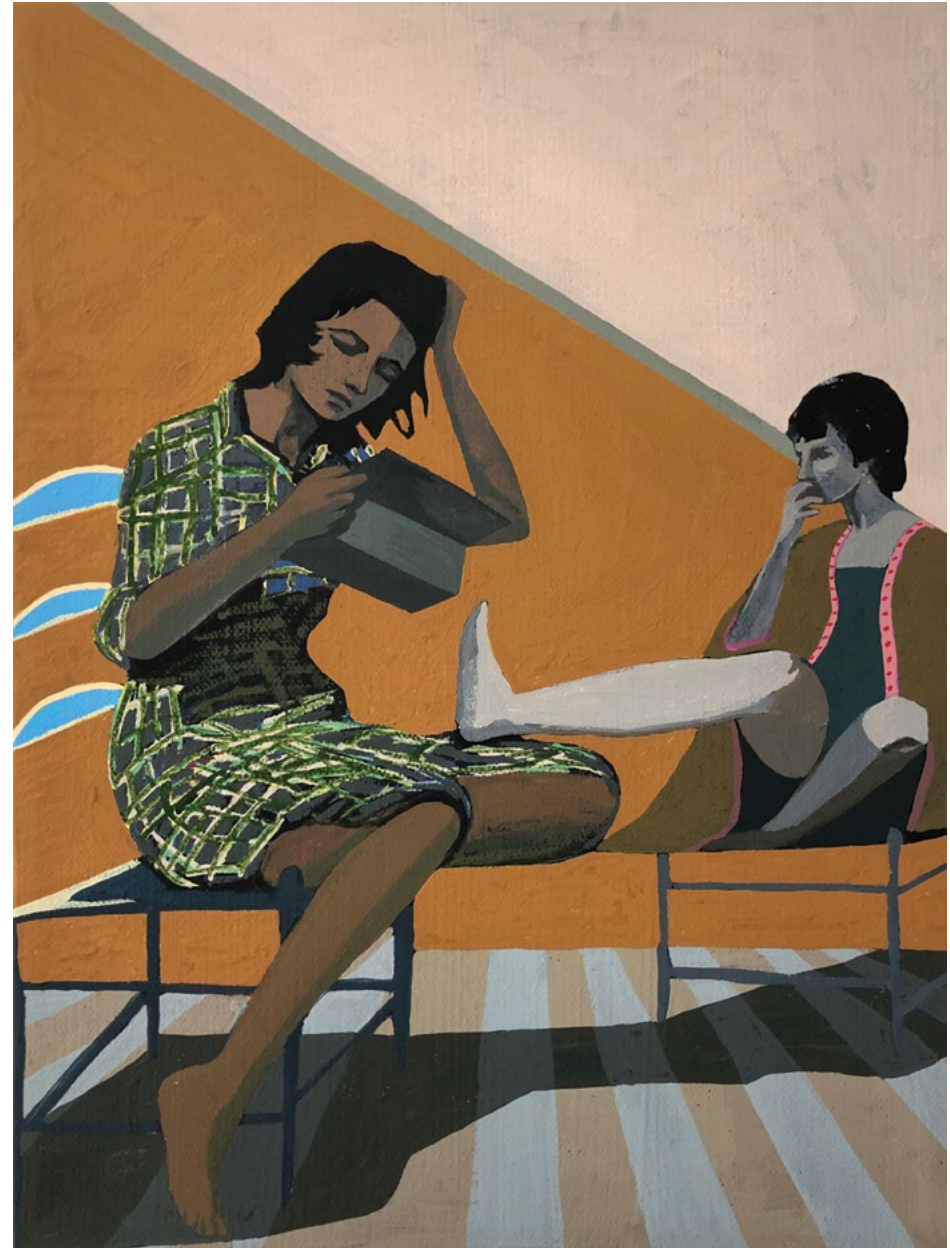
9 x 12 inches



**TRANSLATION**, 2021

Acrylic gouache on canvas

12 x 9 inches



**STAYING IN, 2020**

Acrylic gouache & acrylic on canvas

8 x 10 inches





## EDUCATION

- 2010 M.F.A. in Painting, Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Boston, MA  
2008 Post-Baccalaureate Certificate, Painting, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA  
2005 M.A. in Art History, Columbia University, New York, NY  
2002 Diploma, Foundation Studies, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, London, UK  
2001 B.A. in Art History, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec, Graduated with Distinction

## EXHIBITIONS

- 2021 *Staying In*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, Online Viewing Room  
*Love Language*, Zinc Contemporary, Online Viewing Room  
2020 *Kathleen Craig and Sarah Lubin*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY  
VOLTA NYC Art Fair, work shown by Zinc Contemporary, New York, NY  
2019 *Sarah Lubin*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, New York, NY  
Selected works, Seattle Art Fair, Zinc Contemporary, Seattle, WA  
*Figure Focus*, Gallery 360, Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
*Reality Hunger*, Geoffrey Young Gallery, Great Barrington, MA  
*Drawn to Matter*, Arts Research Collaborative, Lowell, MA  
2017 *Habitat/ion*, Biennial Massart Alumni Juried Exhibition, Bakalar Gallery, Boston, MA  
*Body/Head*, Field Projects at Be Fluent NYC, New York, NY  
2016 *Bloom*, Slag Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*After the Electricity is Gone*, Vernon Street Studios, Somerville, MA  
*One Night Only*, 49 Wareham Space, Boston, MA  
2015 *Blocking the View*, Arts Research Collaborative, Lowell, MA  
BCA Drawing Show: *Feelers*, Boston Center for the Arts, Mills Gallery, Boston, MA  
*Pattern Recognition*, Mahoney Gallery, Lowell, MA  
*New New England*, Gallery 263, Cambridge MA  
*Painting Never Dies*, 49 Wareham Space, Boston, MA

- 2014 *Reading Into Things*, AVA Gallery, Lebanon, NH  
*What's Going On*, Somerville Museum, Somerville, MA  
*Life of the Party*, Fowler Arts Collective, Brooklyn, NY  
*All That and a Bag of Chips*, Dead Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*Salon 21*, Nave Gallery, Somerville, MA  
2013 *Specimen Days: New Work*, SCATV Gallery, Somerville, MA  
*Food For Thoughts: Sarah Lubin*, Cortelyou Space, Brooklyn, NY  
*Red Biennial*, University Place Gallery, Cambridge, MA  
*Juried Exhibition*, Blue Mountain Gallery, New York, NY  
*Across Sections: A Cross Section*, University Gallery, Lowell, MA  
2012 *Besties/Faves*, Sweet Lorraine Gallery, Brooklyn, NY  
*Massart Alumni Show*, Fountain Studios, Brooklyn, NY  
2011 *UMass Lowell Faculty Show*, Whistler Museum of Art, Lowell, MA  
*Painting (Re)considered*, Doran Gallery, Boston, MA  
*Chain Letter*, Samson Projects, Boston, MA  
2010 *Collective*, Juried Exhibition, Galatea Fine Art Gallery, Boston, MA  
*MFA Thesis Exhibition*, Paine Gallery, Boston, MA  
*Together At Opposite Ends*, Doran Gallery, Boston, MA  
*The Smile Without the Cat*, University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH

## GRANTS / HONORS

- 2019 Elizabeth Greenshields Foundation Grant  
2018 New American Paintings, No. 134 Northeast Issue  
Mass Cultural Council Finalist Award  
2013 Shortlist, *100 Painters of Tomorrow*, Thames and Hudson, London, UK  
2008 Festival of the Arts Grant, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA

## PRESS

Delicious Line, *Kathleen Craig and Sarah Lubin*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, reviewed by Franklin Einspruch, January 31, 2020.

Hyperallergic, *9 Highlights from Bushwick Open Studios 2019*, September 23, 2019.

The Berkshire Edge, *Bits and Bytes: Reality Hunger at Geoffrey Young Gallery*, February 27, 2019.

Delicious Line, *New York City: Sarah Lubin*, Nancy Margolis Gallery, reviewed by Xico Greenwald, February 5, 2019.

Art F City, *This Week's Must-See Art Events: Body/Head*, February, 2017.

News Tribune, *Art Blooming for Halo Foundation*, November 17th, 2016.

The Culture Trip, *10 NYC Gallery Exhibitions to See This November*, November, 2016.

Social+Diarist, *Bushwick Open Studios 2016 album*, October, 2016.

Field Projects Gallery blog, September and October 2016.

Boston Globe, *Two Local Biennials Demonstrate Value of Curator's Eye*, by Cate McQuaid, November 24, 2015.

Artscope, *Putting Out Feelers*, by Elizabeth Michelman, November–December, 2015.

Big, Red, and Shiny, *Review: Feelers*, by Samuel Adams, November 16, 2015.

Cameron+Brown Studio, *Gowanus Open Edition 2015*, October, 2015.

The Boston Globe, *BCA Drawing Show: Feelers*, October, 2015.

Carets and Sticks, *Styx & Stones: Life of the Party with Peter Schenck*, October, 2014

Artscope Magazine, *Between Realism and Abstraction*, by Marcia Santore, September, 2014.

Field Projects Gallery blog, November, 2013.

ART@SCATV website video: *Interview with Sarah Lubin*. November, 2013.

Food For Thoughts blog, May, 2013.

Catalog for WCA exhibition, *Bound*, curated by MOMA curator Cora Rosevear, 2012.

Thesmilewithoutthecat.blogspot. March 2010.

## TEACHING / VISITING ARTIST

2011-present Adjunct Faculty, Drawing and Painting, UMass Lowell

2020 Artist Talk (online), Painters' Conference, Mount Gretna School of Art

Artist Talk (online), Buckingham Browne and Nichols School, Cambridge, MA

2019 Visiting Artist and Artist Talk, Massart, Boston, MA

2017 Visiting Artist, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

2016 Visiting Critic, Painting II and III, UMass Lowell

Visiting Artist, Sarah Lawrence College, Bronxville, NY

Visiting Artist, Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA

2014 Artist Talk, AVA Gallery, Lebanon, NH

2014-present Visiting Critic, Painting II and III, UMass Lowell

2013 Visiting Critic, Sophomore Painting Studio, Massart

Adjunct Faculty, 2D Design; Art History: Renaissance to the Present, Fisher College, Boston, MA

2011 Instructor, Junior/Senior Painting Studio, and Drawing into Print, Massart

2010 Instructor, Introduction to Painting, Massart



My recent work depicts interiors that evoke the containment of a stage. Color, geometry, and pattern contribute to the theatricality of the paintings.

The choreographed figures function as architecture in the space, defining the composition through varied poses. Each scene takes shape to reveal and illuminate subtle, quiet, and passing moments.

— SARAH LUBIN





