



237 Jefferson Street 1b Brooklyn, NY 11237
orgypark.com

Dirt Life

01/12/2018 - 02/18/2018

Opening January 12, 2018 7-10pm

curated by Sister

“I bequeath myself to the dirt to grow from the grass I love
If you want me again look for me under your boot-soles.
You will hardly know who I am or what I mean
But I shall be good health to you nonetheless
And filter and fibre your blood.”
- excerpt from “Song of Myself” by Walt Whitman

“Support bacteria - they’re the only culture some people have.”
- Steven Wright

Sister and Orgy Park are pleased to present “Dirt Life”, a group exhibition featuring the work of Dave Choi, Frankie Phillips and Yasamin Keshtkar that attempts to reconcile an internal angst with a comic celebration of life. As the dirt in Whitman’s prose both lies beneath while ultimately enveloping and recycling us, the work in this show celebrates the sacred power of our human dirt; the solemn yet emancipatory effect of acknowledging ones mortality with a sense of humor that is at turns sardonic, playful or bizarre; each artist fluent in a language of jubilation and despair. Dave Choi makes totemic, process based figurative sculptures that are equal parts ‘splatter-horror’ and materialist abstraction. Using Elmers glue as a primary material, Choi’s sculptures breathe and ooze all over their vernacular subjects. Frankie Phillips produces figurative oil painting in which the materiality of the paint and support is vigorously invested with intuitive care. Switching between camp appropriations of James Dean photographs and an almost calligraphic impasto figurative style he compresses emotive content through pigmented sludge. Yasamin Keshtkar explores contemporary celebrity and selfie culture through a lens of realist painting descendent from Gustave Courbet. Using impressionist-like patches of color, Keshtar imbues her plastic images with heft and body that suggest observational painting.

Dave Choi lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. He received a BFA from Longwood College in 1993 and an MFA from Mason Gross School of Arts, Rutgers University in 2001. His work has been included in shows at The Hogar Collection, Gavin Brown’s Enterprise and most recently at DM Contemporary.

Frankie Phillips B. 1988, Pennsylvania, PA. He received a BFA in Painting from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2010. His work has been included in shows at Mana Contemporary, The Parlour Bushwick, and most recently at Honey Ramka. Frankie lives and works in Queens, NY

Yasamin Keshtkar B. 1984, Ann Arbor, MI. She received a BA in Studio Art from the Tulane University in 2006 and her MFA from Pratt Institute in 2008. Her work has recently been included in shows at LOG, Teen Party and Honey Ramka.