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Angela Teng: New Works

September 10 to October 15, 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday September 10th, 2 to 4pm
Equinox Gallery, Vancouver

Equinox Gallery is pleased to present an exhibition of new works by Vancouver-based painter Angela Teng. Since graduating from Emily Carr University of Art + Design, Teng's contemporary engagement with the historical medium of painting has led to an unorthodox approach centered around challenging the nature of paint and its supporting structures.

Angela Teng considers the histories of craft and textiles in her painting practice to experiment with the dualities intrinsic to painting, including painting as an object vs. painting as a process. Through a thoughtful approach that centers the distinctions between craft and fine art, textile and painting, labour and leisure, Teng's paintings are enlivened by a visual imagination that highlights the process of production while engaging in conversations about the artistic labour of women.

Teng's latest body of work began as the result of a thrifting process where second-hand stores were scoured by the artist for incomplete needlepoint embroideries. Viewed as "women's work" and historically devalued, needlepoint is one of the oldest-known forms of canvas work where coloured yarn or embroidery thread is stitched through a pre-planned design on a stiff, open weave canvas. For Teng, the texture of the support provides the ideal opening to create works based on the existing designs using the glistening and oozing material of oil paint rather than a continuous length of thread. The original creators of the needlepoints are lost to history and remain anonymous, but by adding to these unfinished canvases using her own choice of materials and colours, Teng reinvigorates and validates the works through this "collaboration." The intimate scale of these rather fragile objects is also notable, serving as an intentional domestic counterpoint to the large canvases that would have been valorized at the time of needlepoint's fashionability (starting in the 17th century). Through her highly considered and imaginative approach that challenges prevailing ideas around traditionally feminized artistic labour, Teng's paintings highlight the physical process of painting while dissolving the distinctions between craft and fine art, textile and painting, labour and leisure.

Angela Teng received her BFA from Emily Carr University in 2011. Since that time, she has exhibited at 330g (Saskatoon), the Power Plant (Toronto), Mixed Greens (New York), and the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria. She was a finalist in the 2016 and 2017 RBC Painting Competition and was included in the Vancouver Art Gallery's triennial exhibition *Vancouver Special: Ambivalent Pleasures*.

Angela Teng lives and works in Burnaby, BC.