

Michelle Marchesseault

profile

b. 1974 Indianapolis, Indiana

Michelle Marchesseault splits time between Austin, Texas, where she paints, and New York City where she designs art for interiors, television, movies, and the stage. She designed the Long Island City restaurant M. Wells¹ and created the scenic work on the cult television show *The Heart, She Holler*.² She attended the Herron School of Art in Indianapolis for painting.

In April 2023, Northern-Southern presented Marchesseault's second solo show with the gallery, *Green Eyes*. The show began a period of transformation and discovery in her painting. The pictures are memories as vibrant haze—details forgotten and filled in with magic.

In her eponymous solo show at Northern-Southern in 2018, Marchesseault showed the softly constructive “twist” paintings.³ Each twist is about three inches tall. They interlock, clasping each other in something like a weave. The large paintings have more twists. The smaller paintings have fewer.

Marchesseault says the twist is a breath, painted in the duration of her exhale. Painting the twists is a calming routine. Peace hums from the organic geometries of the paintings.

In her newest works the twist patterns interact with still life spiced with an awkward, ugly charm. Reminiscent of Pattern and Decoration, the paintings are bountiful tables of symbol and memory. *Inheritance* is a composition of meals, painted from recollection upon a meditative table cloth/wallpaper that bends space.⁴ In the upper left is an apple doll pierced with an arrow, St. Sebastian by way of William Tell. This, she says, is a self-portrait, perched cheerfully on top of the ruminative picnic.



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1. M. Wells in Long Island City, New York



2. *The Heart, She Holler*, 2011-14

Marchesseault's suite of paintings for NADA Miami is an explication on apocalypse and its souvenirs. A pleasure city topples at the edge of a deluge.⁵ An exalted aura is crowned in laurels of pasta. A shelf of novelties swelters under pendulous sacks of full oranges. A conspirator in a neo-Roman moment is spied from above. Visions of release summon themselves, warm and shimmering.



4. Michelle Marchesseault, Inheritance, 2023, vinyl paint on canvas, 60x48 inches.



3. Michelle Marchesseault, A Lady Came Out, 2017, acrylic, oil, plaster on linen, 72x48 inches



5. Michelle Marchesseault, Mount Vesuvius in Eruption, 2023, vinyl paint on linen, 30 x 36 in.