

## Blair Saxon-Hill

b. 1979 Eugene, OR

Blair Saxon-Hill lives and works in Los Angeles, California. While adept in many art mediums including collage, assemblage and sculpture, Saxon-Hill is primarily an oil painter at this time. Her works are vibrant and playful, and they are filled with an overarching sense of empathy and love for the world and people around her. In her 2024 New York Times review of Blair Saxon-Hill's exhibition at SHRINE, Roberta Smith stated, "Saxon-Hill, who was born in Eugene, Ore., works with untroubled ease and zero pretension, when painting still lifes of wilting flowers or inhabited interiors."

Working with a keen, and often untraditional, sense of color, Saxon-Hill paints imagined figurative scenes that feel rich with the fabric of life. Her paintings play with overlays of patterns and inferred textures, and the works often depict queer folk and friends engaged with one another. She often moves from using larger gestural marks to more fine detailed expressions in a single canvas; rewarding the viewer in different ways at all distances from the work.

Taking advantage of her downtown Los Angeles studio, which is near the flower market, Blair also has an observational still life practice. After gathering flowers from the market, she returns to the studio to compose bouquets and paint them from life. Sometimes, these same still life bouquets are inserted into her paintings of imagined scenes, thereby combining her two working methods— observational painting and relaying images from her imagination. Collectively the works harken to the line work of past masters like Matisse and Picasso, while also looking forward with her new and distinct voice that can serve as an emotional balm for our tragic political and environmental times.