

HANSEL & GRETEL PICTURE GARDEN

POCKET UTOPIA

Immediate Release, Matthew Miller: Can't You See It, I Am One Oct. 16 – Nov. 22, 2014

Matthew Miller 'Can't You See It, I Am One' October 16 – November 22, 2014
Opening Reception: Thursday, October 16, 6-8pm



Matthew Miller, studio view, 2014

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Artist Talk: Saturday, November 15, 4pm
Gallery Hours: Tuesday–Saturday, 10am–6pm

Hansel and Gretel Picture Garden Pocket Utopia presents Matthew Miller's solo exhibition of new work. Portraiture and self-portrayal are the subject matter of Miller's paintings. Miller's figures have an intricate gaze. They fix their eyes on the viewer but they also reveal the artist's method: looking into the mirror at himself in the act of seeing himself see.

Miller furthers his method by including the tools of his creation in the paintings. In one portrait, the artist poses with his brush. In another portrait, he poses with a chisel and an uncompleted wooden sculpture. (The image recalls El Greco's Portrait of a Sculptor, 1576-1578.)



El Greco 'Portrait of a Sculptor'

The artist's torso is understated, softening the figure's masculinity. Miller does not sexualize or heroicize the figure's physique; instead, the figure appears to be emotionally and psychologically vulnerable. Miller's paintings thus intensify the reflexivity of conventional self-portraiture. Miller paints the archetypal artist caught in the vulnerable performance of painting.

Matthew Miller was raised in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in a Mennonite family, and lives and works in New York. His work has been the subject of two solo exhibitions: *Fools Are Those Who Lose Their Mirrors*, Pocket Utopia, New York, 2013, and *The Magic Black of an Open Barn Door on a Really Sunny Summer Day When You Just Cannot See Into It*, Famous Accountants, New York, 2011. His work has been reviewed in *The New York Times*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, *The New Criterion*, *ArtNews* and *ArtNet*. He earned his MFA at the New York Academy of Art, New York, in 2008, and his BA at Messiah College, Grantham, PA, in 2004.

Hansel and Gretel Picture Garden Pocket Utopia is located at 511 w. 22nd Street, NYC. Hours are Tuesday - Saturday from 10:00 am - 6pm and by appointment.

For further information or visuals please call Austin Thomas at 212-729-3011 or visit www.pocketutopia.com