

## Gina Werfel

### *In Context*

Gina Werfel will exhibit recent paintings at Prince Street Gallery from September 7 through October 2, 2021.

Since moving to Northern California twenty years ago, Werfel has continually enlarged the scope of her paintings, combining images from multiple sources. Reflecting on David Hockney's observation that we see "not all at once but rather in discrete, separate glimpses, which we then build up into our continuous experience of the world," she's developed strategies for weaving fragmentary materials, including collage and stencils, into overall compositions. Her current paintings create a shallow space in which graphic marks exist in tension with naturalistic gestures that fade in and out of focus.

The pictorial impulse of her works has become directly embodied in images worked on the floor; her rhythmic, calligraphic marks, rooted in her body, are informed by contemporary dance. In some works these marks connect organically to suggest figure compositions, while in others they dissolve into the total space of the visual field. Although her images are never specific, a number of paintings make reference to water. Werfel, a daily swimmer, finds in her body's movement through water a metaphor for her immersive and agitated compositions.

New York based curator and critic Jennifer Samet wrote in her catalogue essay for *Interface*, a solo show at Drew University, that Werfel's paintings "engage a process of aggregation and excavation...They suggest a multiplicity of voices, reminding us of the fragmented nature of our past – our tendency to erase parts and prioritize others."

This body of work includes paintings made for the show's original date in 2020, now combined with others produced during the pandemic; the title alludes to the expanded, open-ended context afforded by this disruption of Werfel's original trajectory, as well as to the interwoven textures of her paintings.

An opening reception will be held on Thursday, September 9 from 5-8 pm.