

# ALMA PEARL

## Positions, part two

23 June–5 August 2023

Private view: Thursday, 22 June 2023, 6 - 9 PM

**ALMA PEARL**

Unit T, Reliance Wharf

2-10 Hertford Rd

London N1 5ET

Wednesday–Saturday, 12-6pm  
and by appointment

Alma Pearl is pleased to present 'Positions, part two'—the second instalment of the gallery's inaugural show. Featuring twenty-three international artists from different generations, 'Positions, part two' is an exhibition of work selected by writer and critic John Slyce. The exhibition includes works by Larry Amponsah, Armando Andrade Tudela, Edmond Brooks-Beckman, Alice Browne, Richard Burton, Varda Caivano, Cecilia Charlton, Richie Culver, Milena Dragicevic, Simon English, Lydia Gifford, Margarita Gluzberg, Albano Hernández, Ansel Krut, Haeji Min, Evi Pangestu, Victor Payares, Catherine Repko, Ivan Seal, John Strutton, Michele Tocca, Amikam Toren and Nai-Jen Yang.

For both 'part one' and 'two', Slyce's curatorial approach has been to draw out certain links and correspondences between artists and artworks—many of them unexpected—and then follow these as they emerge, and the selection evolves. The exhibition is thus comprised of a diverse range of works connected by an internal narrative whose links are both deeply personal—to either the curator or the artists whose work hangs together—while others are more obvious and structured around recurring elements and connections—be these colour, structure, composition, language and the status of painting in contemporary art. Ultimately, both parts of 'Positions' are shows about painting and the meaning of painting for the included artists, with an aim to reanimate conversations originating in the past while also opening new positions further.

"To look properly at paintings in a moment dominated by the 'attention economy' is a challenge. Ideally, the encounter should take longer than either that which transpires during listening to '30 seconds over Tokyo' on Spotify or pondering an Instagram post. Paintings have a speed built into their making and this does not always follow that of their consumption, let alone apprehension or reading. I've tried to select works that are at once seemingly built slowly that present as if they offer themselves up for the speed of consumption that characterises our moment, while at other times presenting works that move in the opposite direction. Sometimes one doesn't see what is there in a painting for quite some time. Other works come forward quickly at first, but I hope viewers stay with them. Stories and meanings unfold according to their own rhythms and speed is important to consider alongside structure, materiality, palette, and mark." – John Slyce

By hosting an artists' only event the evenings before the opening, organising artists talks through the duration of the shows and working on ad-hoc collaborative projects amongst some of the artists included, we hope to fuel new conversations—both amongst the artists and within our local community—and continue those initiated in part one. Amongst those, Olha Pryymak's project developed in conversation with The Wildlife Gardeners of Haggerston where Pryymak is creating and recording a wild artists' garden in the space in front of Alma Pearl along the canal.

For information, please contact: Celeste Baracchi, Founder and Director, at [celeste@almapearl.com](mailto:celeste@almapearl.com) or on +44 (0)7437 531161