

**Marianne Boesky Gallery to Present Selection of New Paintings
By Acclaimed Dutch Artist Hannah van Bart**

**On View September 12 – October 26, 2019
Opening Reception on September 12, 6:00 – 8:00 PM**

On September 12, Marianne Boesky Gallery will open its sixth solo presentation of paintings by Amsterdam-based artist Hannah van Bart. Titled *Places and Beings*, the exhibition will include a selection of new and recent paintings, including landscapes, portraits, and still life scenes. Together, the featured works capture van Bart's incredible ability to elicit poignant sensations of mood, tone, and atmosphere from seemingly indistinct subjects and scenarios. Over her multi-decade career, van Bart has come to be recognized for her melding of figural and abstract modes to convey both the physical and emotional contours of a person or place. *Places and Beings* will be on view at the gallery's 507 W. 24th Street location through October 26, 2019. This exhibition will be followed with a retrospective of the artist's work at the Centraal Museum in Utrecht in 2021.

van Bart draws inspiration from her personal experiences, gravitating to a single fragment or fleeting moment. It is equally the initial spark of interest and the open possibility of narrative that draws van Bart. From there, she allows her imagination and her hand to lead freely. For *Places and Beings*, in particular, she began each work as a simple, small-scale drawing, establishing an initial visual and conceptual thread for the final, larger painting. As van Bart works her canvases, she layers meaning into the scene. Often, she paints and then washes away details of faces, bodies, and landscape elements, blurring the boundaries between foreground and background and giving her paintings a dream-like quality. At the same time, she repeats certain patterns and emphasizes particular lines and colors, helping to focus the viewer's eye. The overall sensation is one that suggests something teeming just beneath the surface—a history or story locked within the confines of the painting.

Although the foundation of van Bart's work is rooted in reality, the true power of her work is in its enigmatic nature. For the upcoming exhibition, van Bart will present a wide range of subjects and characters, from desolate forests to wildlife to individuals who seem to dissipate and become one with their environments. This marks an important shift for van Bart, as she moves more deeply into exploring landscape and figural interactions. In one trio of paintings, titled *The Gift*, a single teacup is produced at just slightly different angles. Its edges morphed and aged, the teacup shifts within an open, undefined space. The subtle alterations, including the deepening and lightening of the shades of red in which the cup is depicted, produce an unexpected tension, inviting the viewer to consider the origins and meanings of this simple object. In another painting, titled *The Hideout*, a wolf emerges from a tangle of muted colors and lines that suggest a deep expanse of forest. The wolf stares out from the canvas, conveying a spectrum of emotions as one works to decipher the scene. Experienced together, the paintings suggest a strange, otherworldly realm—one that feels unexpectedly intimate and also distant and ungraspable.

"I think I always paint places to be—spaces that capture a feeling or memory and hold my stories. I want to know how my memories and feelings look—what images they make, how the spaces they make open

MARIANNE BOESKY GALLERY

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and close or resonate in me, how they eat me up and therewith offer me the possibility to be," said van Bart. "They are about my childhood and about now. They are places where drawing, painting, and being become one."

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Hannah van Bart was born in 1963 in the Netherlands, and lives and works in Amsterdam. Among her solo exhibitions are those held at the Gemeente Museum in the Hague and the Cobra Museum of Modern Art in Amsterdam, which were organized with accompanying catalogues. van Bart has also shown in numerous group exhibitions, including those at the Rubell Family Collection, Stedelijk Museum, the XIe Biennale de Lyon, and at the Singer Laren, as part of the exhibition *Van Cobra tot Dumas*. She has previously been featured in a television interview on *4 Art* on Kunstuur with Dutch art critic and writer, Hans den Hartog Jager, and her work has been covered in many art magazines and journals. In 1994, she was the recipient of the Royal Award for Fine Art Painting and in 1998 of the Philip Morris Kunstprijs. Mostly recently, in 2019, she was awarded the Jeanne Oosting Prize for Painting. As part of the award, van Bart's work was presented at De Vishal in Haarlem, the Netherlands. A retrospective of the artist's work will open at the Centraal Museum in Utrecht in 2020.

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