

Avital Burg: Textures of Time

12 October - 3 November 2022



Late Fall Flowers (Noble Street), 2021, Oil on Canvas, 16 x 16 in, 40.6 x 40.6 cm

A Crean & Company exhibition
in association with Browse & Darby
19 Cork St, London W1S 3LP

Crean & Company announces its first-ever physical gallery exhibition, focusing on the latest body of work by Brooklyn-based contemporary painter Avital Burg. Taking place at Browse & Darby from 12 October to 3 November, *Textures of Time* marks Burg's first ever solo show in the UK with a new series of still lifes and portraits. Across 26 new paintings, the exhibition explores how Burg's experimentation with the material possibilities of paint creates a compelling observational style, one informed by her personal range of cultural and artistic influences.

Likening her practice to a form of 'visual journaling', Burg's paintings contemplate the essence and passing of time. From urban wildflowers picked near her home to annual birthday self-portraits, each painting carries an anecdotal significance, a memento to a particular moment in Burg's life. Each one is titled like a caption in a photo album e.g. *Paidge Avenue Flowers (week 23)* (2021), a reference to the source of her city foraging and the phase of her pregnancy at the time. Based on the direct observation of the world she constructs in her studio, Burg paints using oils and wax, giving a three-dimensional quality to her work - each ephemeral moment rendered with an often-lifelike materiality.

While at once grounded in specific ideas of time and place, Burg's paintings also reflect on the non-linearity of these concepts. Her paint formula itself embodies these ideas: the artist uses dried paint mixed in with fresh, 'so there is a history within the paint itself'. Like the

loose composition of her bouquets, capturing the changing lifespan of flowers wilting as they are painted, each work suggests the different layers of time often distilled into one moment. In *Greenpoint Window and Dry Roses* (2020), a self-portrait from her studio in Brooklyn, the brick backdrop recalls the stone of her native Jerusalem to create a scene that blends physical reality with her subjective perspective. The brickwork is thickly rendered with a sculptural realism, overtaking Burg's silhouette in the foreground – an illusory effect that indicates the prominence of memory and imagination in her paintings.

Burg's painting draws from a range of sources, a measure of her international artistic training. In addition to Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, the painter also attended London's Slade School of Art and the New York Studio School. Her work reveals the inspiration of both the European and American tradition, from Cézanne and Jasper Johns' experimentation with the rules of perception to the detailed effects of Old Masters paintings and their 'fantasy of the past'. Combining these influences into a highly personal artistic language, Burg re-shapes and re-energises the potential of the observational genre in contemporary painting.

Founder of Crean & Company Nick Crean said: 'It's an honour to introduce Avital's paintings to Browse & Darby, at the heart of the London art scene in Mayfair. These paintings reflect perfectly the richness of her draughtsmanship and palette, an ode to her Renaissance mentors. Fragments of grandeur, peel back the layers, we can't live in yesterday, but Avital shows us how yesterday's skins can live in tomorrow.'

For images and information, please contact info@creanandcompany.com or 07853 789717

Times Monday-Friday, 10-5.30
Address Browse & Darby, 19 Cork St, London W1S 3LP
www.creanandcompany.com | @creanandcompany
www.browseanddarby.co.uk | @browseanddarby

About Avital Burg

Avital Burg was born in Jerusalem, Israel, and currently lives and works in Brooklyn, New York. Burg's work was recently shown in solo shows at Pamela Salisbury Gallery in Hudson, NY, Slag Gallery, New York and at the Neve Schechter Gallery, Tel Aviv. Her work was also featured in group shows at Fridman Gallery, NY, The Islip Art Museum, the Greenpoint Film Festival, NY. She is the recipient of several grants, including the Artis Residency Grant, and was the artist in residence of the Peleh Residency in California in 2019 and the Interlude Residency in Hudson in 2022. Burg attended the Bezalel Academy of Art and Design, Jerusalem, "Hatahana" school of figurative drawing and painting, Tel Aviv, The Slade School of Art, London, and the New York Studio School.

About Crean & Company

Crean & Company was founded as an online gallery by collector Nick Crean in 2020. Through digital platforms and now physical exhibitions, the gallery promotes artists and makers whose work sparks colour, curiosity and conversation. Its line-up of contemporary international artists includes Avital Burg, Kate Braine, Julie Held and Thomas Merrett.

About Browse & Darby

The gallery was founded in 1977 by Lilian Browse and William Darby and is now run by Charles Bradstock and Joshua Darby. As dealers and agents in British and French paintings, drawings and sculpture, the gallery represents twenty contemporary gallery artists and its focus is mainly on figurative art.