

## *The Mirror of Simple Souls*

On view May 7 - 31, 2021 by appointment

Opening reception: May 7, 6 to 9 pm



LOVE AWOKE IN WHAT COULD BEST BE DESCRIBED AS A FERVOR OF BOREDOM. ANXIOUS ENERGY RADIATED FROM HER CHEST TO HER TOES, BUT HER EYES AND MIND STAYED SLEEPY. THERE WAS SOMETHING HAPPENING UNDER THE SURFACE, BUT SHE COULDN'T FIND THE ENERGY TO CARE.

FIGHTING THE DESIRE TO RETURN TO HER BED, REASON SWALLOWED A WELLNESS VITAMIN WITH A GLASS OF TAP WATER AND PUT ON SOMETHING LESS COMFORTABLE. THE VITAMIN LEFT HER MOUTH TASTING LIKE DUST AND HER BREATH SMELLING LIKE THYME. SHE SMOKED A CIGARETTE AND WALKED IN SLOW MOTION.

LOVE SET OUT TO WATCH THE SUNRISE, HOPING IT WOULD WELCOME HER ALONG WITH THE DAY, HOPING A BRILLIANT SOMETHING MAY KNOCK HER AWAKE AND GIVE HER THE ENERGY NECESSARY TO GET THROUGH THE NEXT FEW HOURS AND BACK TO HER BED.

AS THE SUN MADE ITS WAY OVER THE WATER, LOVE WATCHED INTENTLY AND FELT NOTHING. SHE KEPT WATCHING. STARING INTO THE SUN IS STRICTLY ADVISED AGAINST, BUT SHE WAS HOPING THE FORBIDDEN STARE MIGHT JUST HEAL THIS SHORT-CIRCUITING MALAISE SHE COULDN'T SEEM TO SHAKE.

CEMENTED THERE, STARING INTO THE SUN, SHE FELT A QUIVER. SHE WOULDN'T REMEMBER HER BODY BEING AROUND AFTER THAT.

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Colleen Billing (b. Baltimore, MD) lives and works in New York. She received her BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and her MFA from Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University. She has participated in residencies at the Skowhegan School of Painting & Sculpture, Vermont Studio Center and LMCC Arts Center. Recent solo exhibitions include THE ENEMY KNOWS THE SYSTEM, Motel, Brooklyn, NY, Sister Genus, Bad Water, Knoxville, TN, Nervous System, Mason Gross Galleries, New Brunswick, NJ. She has been included in projects + exhibitions with Abrons Arts Center, New York, NY, HERE Arts Center, New York, NY, Catbox Contemporary, Brooklyn, NY, Montez Press, New York, NY, 891 N Main, Providence, RI, Sunview Luncheonette, Brooklyn, NY, Automat, Philadelphia, PA, and Essex Flowers, New York, NY.