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Contact: Locks Gallery
T 215-629-1000/F 215-629-3868
info@locksgallery.com



When You Wish, 2015, acrylic on linen, 48 1/2 x 72 1/2 in.

Sarah McEaney: *When You Wish*

August 26 - October 8, 2016

Opening Reception: Friday, September 9, 2016 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-6pm

Gallery will be closed September 24

Aerial skyline views and tender portraits of her studio and home in Philadelphia characterize the new work in Sarah McEaney's exhibit, *When You Wish*. These 20 paintings—all acrylic—represent a new material focus for the artist. She describes her shift from the classical use of egg tempera to acrylic as a breakthrough of “finding the painting thru the paint.”

The new paintings on view act as mirrors, reflecting McEaney's core identity as an artist and activist and continuing her ongoing investigation of autobiography in her work. A founding member of the Friends of the Rail Park, a nonprofit group involved in Philadelphia's Rail Park development—which has changed the landscape of her neighborhood and others throughout the city—McEaney paints the shifting cityscape as seen from her surroundings. The artist's depictions of the viaduct's transformation and the changing architecture of Trestletown act as an extension of her self-portraiture, situating her life as an artist within the larger life of the city.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a publication, with an essay by critic and writer, Wendy Vogel, which traces a new familiarity in the most intimate depictions of McEaney's daily life.

600 Washington Square South
Philadelphia PA 19106
tel 215.629.1000 fax 215.629.3868
info@locksgallery.com
www.locksgallery.com

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McEneaney, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts has had two previous solo exhibits at Locks Gallery. Recent group exhibitions include *Happiness, Liberty, Life? American Art and Politics*, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (2016); *About Face: Self Portraiture in Contemporary Art*, Hood Museum of Art (2015) and *First Look*, The Philadelphia Museum of Art (2013). Her work is in such museum collections as the Hood Museum of Art, Mills College Art Museum, Neuberger Museum of Art, RISD Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art and Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts.

The artist has received multiple awards; including a Chinati Foundation Residency, Yaddo Fellowship, Pew Fellowship in the Arts, Joan Mitchell Foundation Grant and the inaugural residency with the Joan Mitchell Center in New Orleans.

Locks Gallery is located at 600 Washington Square South in Philadelphia, PA. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm. For additional information, please contact Locks Gallery at 215-629-1000, fax 215-629-3868, or email info@locksgallery.com

