

LAMONTAGNE GALLERY

Sean Downey  
*Why Each Perfumed Flower*

June 24 – July 30, 2022

**Opening Reception:**  
Friday, June 24, 5 – 8 p.m



*Indexing*, 2022, oil on canvas, 48" x 60"

---

LaMontagne Gallery is pleased to present a selection of paintings and sculptures by Sean Downey.

Why heroes die at sunrise  
Why the birds are arrows of the wise  
Why each perfumed flower  
Why each moment has its hour  
It's you  
It's all true  
Stranger than that we're alive

– Job's Tears, Incredible String Band

Sean Downey's recent body of work begins with photogrammetry and 3D scans of objects, scenes, and figures from the physical world. These are then embedded within digital scenarios in virtual reality, and later spun into visual sources for handmade paintings and ceramic sculptures.

Downey states: "The back and forth translation from digital to analog has a way of making the familiar and pedestrian feel strange and mysterious. The residue of this mystery extends into the iterative process of painting, where worlds that have been experienced virtually and physically become more and less known as they are abstracted, synthesized, and metabolized through the material of paint. The larger works in *Why Each Perfumed Flower* also engage an interest in the relationship between the whole of an image and the parts. There is an attempt to fall in love with, and get lost in all of the smaller moments in the paintings while also choreographing the parts into a clunky, overloaded, but unified 'whole.' This is also related to the very analog, physical encounter we have with a painting as viewers, where walking up to and around a painting becomes a narrative in space, the seemingly static image changing and unfolding as you move around it in the room. Virtual and augmented reality create a kind of pantomime or caricature of this sort of physical encounter, but they also direct our attention to our own movements in relation to the world around us. I want to create paintings that give you that sort of simultaneous, multiple awareness of the image, the object, and your own process of perception as you encounter the work."

The imagery in Downey's artwork juxtaposes and overlaps interiors, exteriors, home, office, and studio as a visual metaphor for the confusion of thoughts, memories, anxieties, predictions, and daily routines that seem to have become increasingly intermingled in recent years.



LaMontagne Gallery  
460 Harrison Ave. A16  
Boston, MA 02118  
(617)-487-3512  
[lamontagnegallery.com](http://lamontagnegallery.com)