

# REBECCA CAMACHO PRESENTS

Jennie Ottinger

*Bad Luck, Dutch. Your Face is on the Tea Towels: The Princess Series*

10 September through 22 October 2022

Opening Reception: Saturday 10 September, 5pm to 7pm

Rebecca Camacho Presents is pleased to announce an exhibition of new works by San Francisco based artist Jennie Ottinger. Ottinger's abstract realist paintings investigate historical events through a contemporary feminist eye. With figures at once eerily distorted and pleasantly recognizable, Ottinger documents gendered social norms and investigates the powerholders who benefit from people's compliance within the confines of standardized acceptability.

With past subjects ranging from Greek letter organizations to Jane Eyre to country clubs to revolutionary political landscapes, Ottinger's newest work centers on Diana, Princess of Wales. Titled *Bad Luck, Dutch. Your Face is on the Tea Towels: the Princess Series*, a reference to a conversation between Lady Diana Spencer and her sisters on the eve of Diana's wedding to Prince Charles where she expressed nuptial doubts and her sisters encouraged her to proceed, Ottinger's solo debut at the gallery recreates public documentation of Princess Diana from her media arrival as Charles's young girlfriend in 1980 through her death in 1997. Sourced from paparazzi images as well as officially released photos, Ottinger creates poignant portraits chronicling Diana's everyday experiences.

Installed chronologically the exhibition documents the visual transformation of a singular woman while also engaging a larger group discourse of power dynamics and power distance. In a practice where omission is as important as inclusion, Ottinger's paintings materialize through a dual process of exposure and erasure. Rendering some figures in focused detail while leaving others faceless, in broad strokes, Ottinger enacts a nuanced dialogue on the complexities of perception and belonging. Often backgrounds and edges emerge unadorned, creating a hierarchy of focus and accentuating isolation. With shifting emotional temperament from panel to panel, Ottinger's record of Diana's evolution in the public eye mirrors the in v. out commentary of her as visual subject matter; a voyeuristic analysis of social access and deprivation.

Jennie Ottinger (b. 1971 North Attleboro MA) received her BA in art history from University of the Pacific in 1994, followed by a BFA in illustration from the California College of the Arts in 2000, and an MFA in painting from Mills College in 2008. Notable exhibitions include the Jewish Art Museum, San Francisco; the Berkeley Art Center, Berkeley; Johansson Gallery, Oakland; Conduit Gallery, Dallas; and Eleven Gallery, London UK. A past fellow at Kala Art Institute and affiliate artist at the Headlands Center for the Arts, Ottinger's work has been reviewed in *Art in America*, *Huffington Post*, *Hyperallergic*, and *It's Nice That*, among others.

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Gallery hours: Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12noon to 5pm

Or by appointment, schedule by phone or email - 415.800.7228, [info@rebeccacamacho.com](mailto:info@rebeccacamacho.com)