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JULIA EISEN-LESTER: AN EXHIBITION OF DRAWINGS AND PAINTINGS
OPENS MARCH 28, 2023
At Noho/M55 Gallery in Chelsea
548 W. 28th St., Suite 634
New York, NY 10001

Julia Eisen-Lester's solo exhibition of recent drawings and paintings, **INTERLUDE: A PAUSE IN TIME**, will open at the Noho/M55 Gallery in Chelsea on Tuesday, March 28th, and run until Saturday, April 15. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, March 30th from 5:30-8:00 pm, and there will be a closing reception on Saturday, April 15th from 3:30-5:00 pm. For other viewing options, gallery hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 11 am-6pm.

The works in this exhibition include a wide range of figurative oil paintings and drawings which all suggest a sense of stillness or suspension of time. Some of the works depict people engaged in peaceful activities such as reading, daydreaming, watching the rain, walking on the beach, nursing a baby, arranging fruits and flowers, playing the piano. Others portray objects at rest, prior to being used: freshly-baked bread; coffee cups not yet filled; eggs by the stove, waiting to be scrambled; an open cabinet exposing pretty plates.

Ms. Eisen-Lester's last New York City solo show featured work filled with the vibrancy and exuberance of city life. In the paintings on view at this exhibition, she focuses more on simplicity and stillness than on busy activity. "The frenetic pace of life," she explains, "with its continual demands, can be very taxing and exhausting. I find that painting and drawing the quietude of a still life, or a figure engaged in a peaceful pursuit, relaxes and centers me." In these pictures of "pause," as much as in her pictures of action, she endeavors to portray a story that will spark the interest and imagination of her viewers.

The viewer is invited into the moments Ms. Eisen-Lester has captured through her extraordinary combination of technical mastery and expressive use of color and of paint. The paintings in this exhibition are all done in oils, for, though Ms. Eisen-Lester has worked in a wide variety of media, she says " I feel a visceral connection between brush, paint and canvas. I strive to make my colors vibrate and my brush strokes move and swirl. I can achieve these technical goals best with oils, which allow me to capture the vividness and fluidity of my subjects."