

Test Sites @ Frieze, NY 2020

Erica Mahinay
Lyles & King, NY
Frieze Viewing Room
8 May - 15 May 2020

Time, absence, and eroticism are essential themes of Mahinay's practice and integral to her work's compelling combination of haptic intensity and elusiveness. She situates the work in the borderland between abstraction and figuration, offering a place to explore the boundary between self and other by acknowledging perception as a controlled hallucination pieced together through our bodily self, perspectival self, volitional self, and narrative self. Her Thin Skins and silicone sculpture are tactile, performative, and urge touching, but also appear sensitive, fleshy, and mortal. Sculptures in pliant, fleshy silicon with white slumps drooping allude to bodily functions, rituals of physical self-care, cleansing ablutions, and excretion. Mahinay's work continues the history of artists using their own bodies in acts of rebellion, protest, and celebration to actualize and liberate the self. Her improvised movements, evidenced by the traces of her hands dipped in medium, demonstrate a conscious pursuit of an embodied image, a groping and slipping for self-reinvention, and for connection with other bodies.