

## *Softly, Boldly*

Erica Mahinay

Ibid Gallery, Los Angeles

19 November – 17 December 2016

Ibid Gallery presents *Softly Boldly*, a solo show with Los Angeles-based artist Erica Mahinay. This is the artist's first exhibition with the gallery.

Flickering between the earthly and cosmic, the representational and the abstract, Erica Mahinay introduces new paintings and sculptures that hinge on notions of mortality, temporality and the exigency for propagation, adaptation and growth. Meanwhile, the technical aspects of Mahinay's paintings explore the nuances of perception and imagination in relation to the construction of an image.

Affecting the viewer's physiology by relying on optical color—traditional glazing and layering of color to create perceived color rather than direct color—Mahinay's paintings target the viewer's nervous system through the eye itself. Using a limited palette and loosely applied translucent layers of paint, the works reveal their tricks while in the process implicating the viewer. In exchange for the willingness to participate, the paintings offer ghostly, mysterious and atmospheric floral landscapes.

Mahinay's bleached paintings employ similar tactics. They initially appear to have a photographic source but traces of the underlying stretcher bars expose a material process. The combination of a chance process and minimal intervention results in a likeness akin to volcanic eruptions or solar flairs. The surfaces of these paintings are predominantly uniform and smooth, though occasionally disrupted by a wrinkle or pucker in the stitched fabric.

Suggesting a temporary position or condition, Mahinay's black sand-coated sculptures point to a *mélange* of objects—headstones, labyrinths, gardens or even mattresses. Sliced at their ends, these forms exist as fragments that seek new possibilities for taking shape, becoming host to a bed of fresh flowers. Sprung from cut edges and coated and preserved in a milky silicon, the potential for pollination and propagation is suspended.

With this exhibition, Mahinay expands the scope of her practice. Previously focused on weighing the pros and cons of living in a world where the tools for defining the self have become increasingly available, Mahinay now shifts the conversation from singular to plural, from concerns about reinventing the self towards one for a collective loss of certainty about the future.