

Eleanor Harwood Gallery presents:

***If You Can't See Me, I Can't See You***  
**Paul Wackers**

**Opening Reception**

September 7th, 2024, 5-7 pm

**Exhibit Dates**

September 7th - November 2nd, 2024



*The Story Told is Not Always Yours to Know but Sometimes to Hold as a Thing to Wonder About*  
Acrylic on canvas, 60" x 50"

**San Francisco, CA.** Aug 27th, 2024. Eleanor Harwood Gallery is pleased to present Paul Wackers' ninth solo exhibition with the gallery: *If You Can't See Me, I Can't See You*. The show will open on September 7th, 2024, and be on view through November 2nd, 2024.

The paintings in Wackers' new body of work such as, *Shot Pattern*, *The Story Told is Not Always Yours to Know but Sometimes to Hold as a Thing to Wonder About*, and *Made Real*

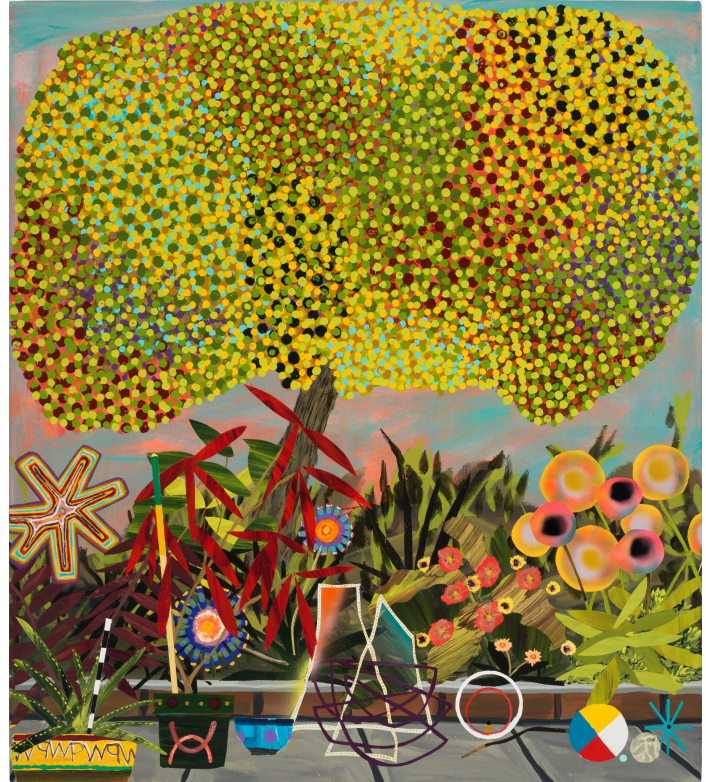
*With Care and Time*, began as drawings. Wackers' has always drawn but the move towards creating a drawing and using it as a template for his painting allows for more exploration of the paint and the gestural act of "painting" itself. Instead of creating the composition as he works he is now able to focus more on the contemplation of the paint itself. Wackers' strength has always been the incredible variety of mark-making and painting styles he incorporates into each painting. This exhibition further moves towards even more painterly concerns and adds to complexity of the painting's surfaces.

Wackers' attention to paint handling and variation in application is what sets him apart from other artists working with contemporary still life themes. In *The Story Told is Not Always Yours to Know but Sometimes to Hold as a Thing to Wonder About*, Wackers' allows us to see how the painting was made. In the bottom center of the image, we see the painting rendered as an ink painting, showing us how the process began. This self-reflexivity and generosity allows a bit of humor to enter the paintings as he presents us with the painting's initial map. The strange Christmas-tree like figure in the painting holds Wackers' bundle of gifts under the tree. The painting is like an Easter egg hunt for those familiar with his paintings, collecting up shapes and objects that appear throughout his body of work.

Wackers' combines the mundane with the impossible. This expressive approach transforms still-life compositions and landscapes into unexpected configurations. His latest body of work showcases a move towards a more experimental style.

### **Artist Bio**

Paul Wackers (B. 1978) was born in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1978. He received a BFA from Corcoran College of Art and Design in Washington, DC, and an MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute. Recent solo exhibitions include *The window goes both ways* at Alice Gallery in Brussels, Belgium (2023); *Sounds Before the Sun Hits* at Jack Hanley Gallery in New York, NY (2023); and *Fresh Cut* at Eleanor Harwood Gallery in San Francisco, CA (2022). Recent group exhibitions include *We're Outta Here* at The Pit Los Angeles, CA (2023); *Various Flowers* at Hirschl and Adler Modern New York, NY (2023); *Peter Böhnisch, Sophie Treppendahl, and Paul Wackers* at Jack Hanley Gallery, New York, NY (2022); *Earth's Debit* at Public Land in Sacramento, California (2022); *Twenty Year Anniversary Exhibition* at Morgan Lehman Gallery in New York (2022); and *Nature Morte* at The Hole in New York (2021).



His work is in the MIMA Museum (Brussels, BE) and many prominent private and public collections, including Chevron Corporation, Fidelity Investments, Ellie Mae Corporate Collection and Stanford Children's Hospital. He also installed a large public mural on the James Hotel in New York City.

He received the Tournesol Painting Prize in 2008 with an awarded residency at the Headlands Center for the Arts (Marin County, CA), the NK Dale Residency (Sunfjord, Norway), Encore (Brussels, BE), and an artist residency at the Byrdcliffe Colony (Woodstock, NY), and the Watershed Center for Ceramic Arts, (Portland, ME).

Paul Wackers has been exhibiting with Eleanor Harwood Gallery since 2006. He lives and works in New York City.

### **About Eleanor Harwood Gallery**

Eleanor Harwood Gallery opened September 2006 in the Mission District and is now located in San Francisco's premier gallery complex, the Minnesota Street Project. The gallery specializes in work with complex craft and concept, exhibiting painting, drawing, sculpture, textiles and photography by emerging to mid-career artists. The roster includes artists that are represented in major American, European and Asian collections. The gallery actively promotes and encourages career growth for represented artists.

### **Location**

1275 Minnesota Street, Suite 105, San Francisco, CA 94107

### **Hours**

Tuesday-Saturday 11am-5:00pm and by appointment

### **Contact**

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