

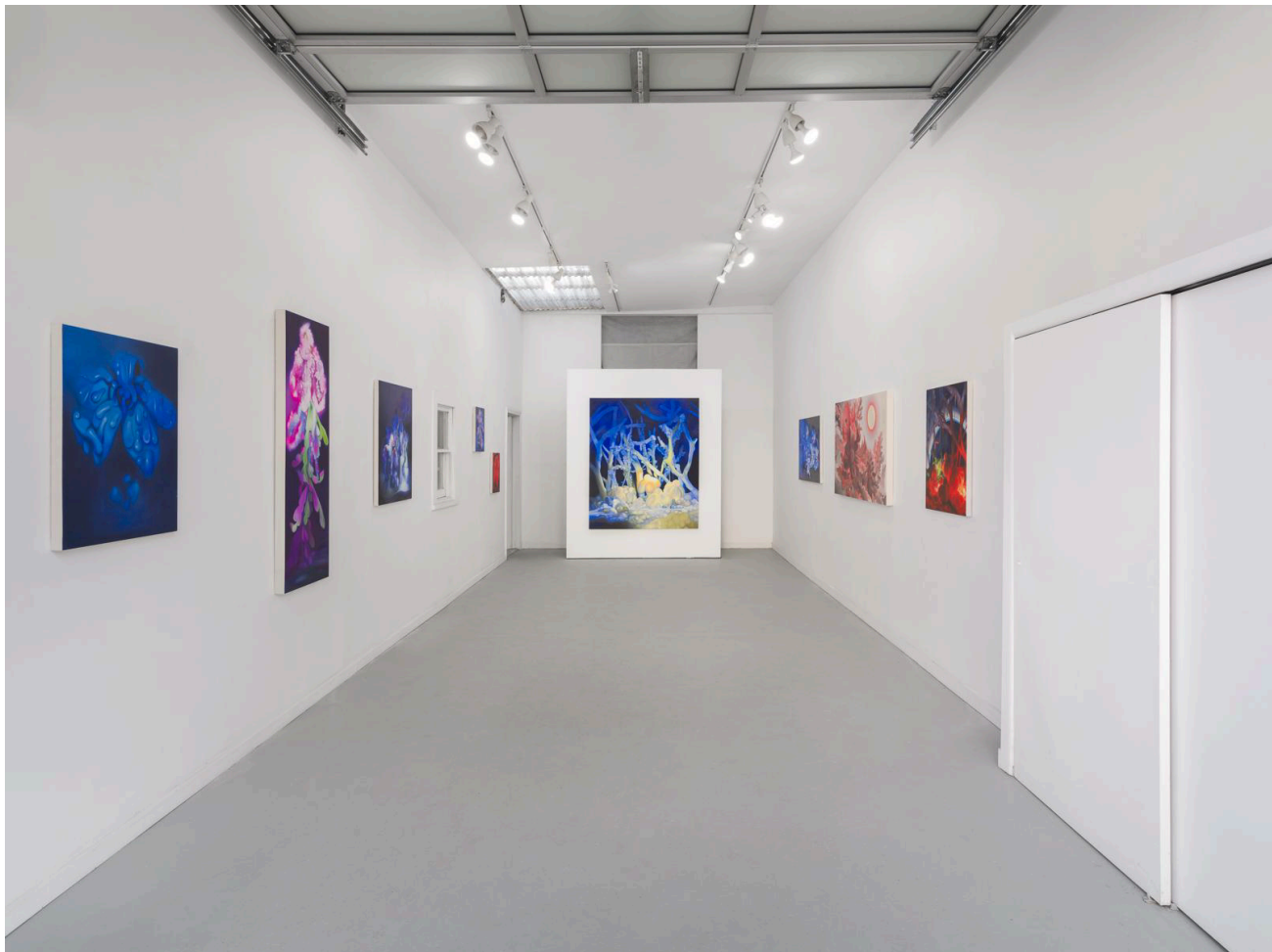
# Two Coats of Paint

An award-winning NYC blogazine, primarily about painting

## SOLO SHOWS

# Hannah Antalek's crystal ball: Magical and disconcerting

November 25, 2023 12:43 pm

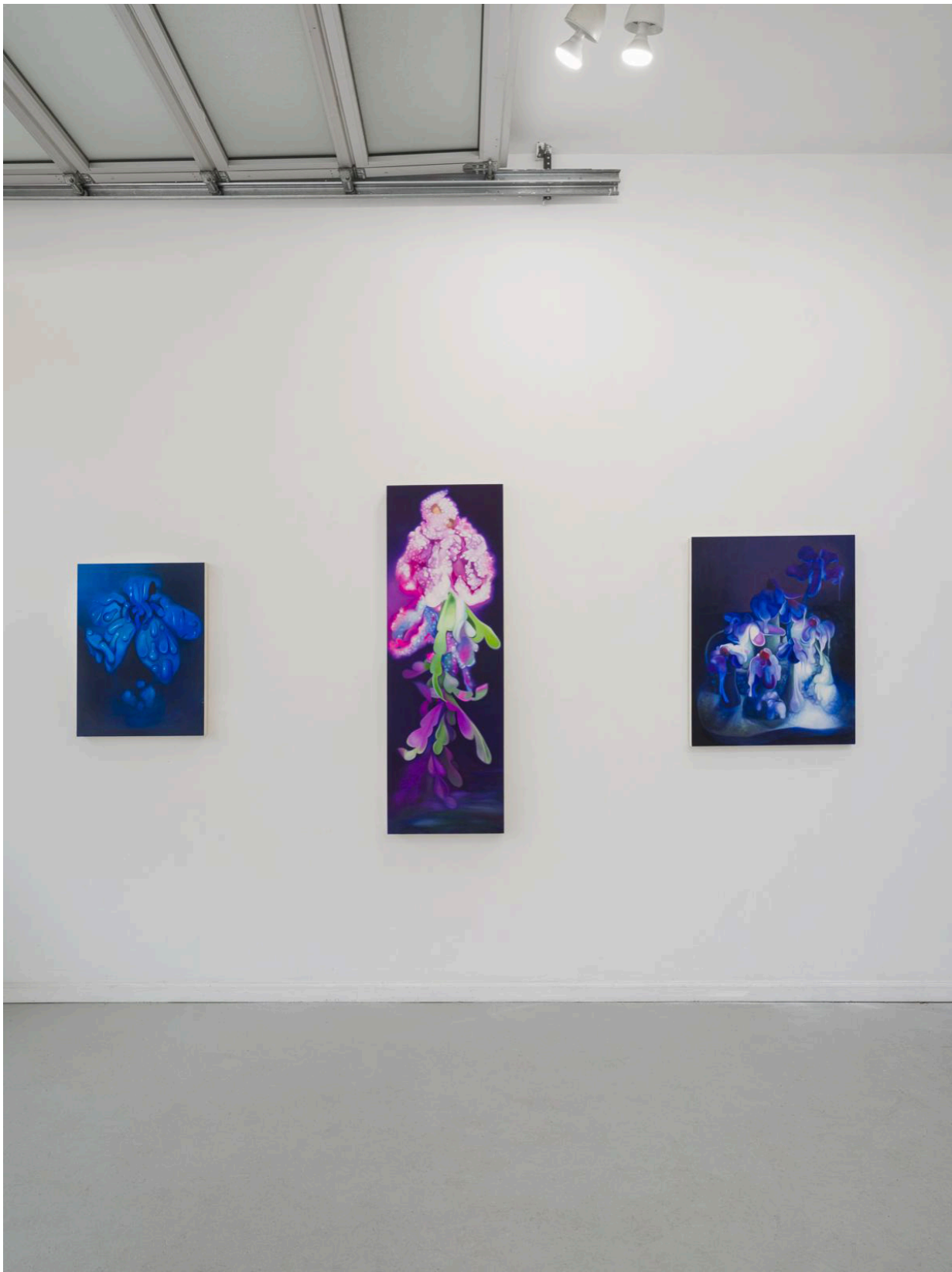


*5-50 Gallery: Hannah Antalek, Superseed, 2023, Installation View*

Contributed by Heather Drayzen / “Superseed,” Hannah Antalek’s debut NYC solo exhibition at 5-50 gallery in Long Island City, draws on our species’ overall apathy about the environment. A surreal, dream-like sensibility informs a bio-luminescent vision of nature, cumulatively derived from dioramas she constructs from recyclable materials. She pulls us into a magical but also disconcerting world. *Seminal Landing*, the largest work, projects a haze of cobalt blue and violet that feels both subterranean and post-apocalyptic. Antalek’s signature “daisy dupe” swollen flowers are clustered together – glowing pearl yellows, tinged with pastel pink, in lilac shadows – as they reach towards twisting branches, dripping goo, and unexplained crystalline forms nestled around them.



*Hannah Antalek, Seminal Landing, 2023, oil on canvas, 72 x 60 inches*



*Hannah Antalek, Superseed, 2023, Installation View*



*Hannah Antalek, Final Form, 2023, oil on canvas, 60 x 22 inches*

*Final Form*, stretching five feet high, might be the notional personification of a daisy dupe, portrayed as if it were a starlet. The soft, fluorescent halo recalls color-retouched photos of the 1930s, while the digital prismatic hues are fiercely contemporary. Neon pinks dance amid deep manganese violet around mysterious diamond-like forms that appeared in *Seminal Landing*. In both



paintings, these allude to the rather desperate idea of geo-engineering the earth's atmosphere by blasting massive amounts of diamond dust into the sky to deflect the hot, beating sun.



*Hannah Antalek, Carbon Capture, 2023, oil on canvas, 36 x 60 inches*

*Carbon Capture* is more direct. It tracks as a stark warning about life on Earth after decisive climate change. The mutedly glowing sun familiar from recent wildfire summers melts the world in place, as Sahara brown spiked tendrils and cadmium orange-tinted flora swirl.



*Hannah Antalek, Perpetual Aurora, 2023, oil on canvas, 32 x 24 inches*

*Perpetual Aura* draws us into an intimate terrarium space as a solar eclipse presides distantly over a mound of sizzling neon red and lime-green daisy dupes reflecting light under a shroud of sulking branches. Antalek woos us with fantastical beauty and sobers us with haunting prospects. Because each painting is aggressively enveloping, we are bound to confront the implications of our action and inaction. We look at our planet, then at ourselves.



*Hannah Antalek, Superseed, 2023, Installation View*

**“Hannah Antalek: Superseed,”** 5-50 Gallery, 5-50 51st Avenue, Long Island City, NY. Through December 24, 2023.

**About the author:** **Heather Drayzen** is an artist based in Brooklyn. She is currently working towards a solo exhibition at My Pet Ram opening in spring 2024.

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**NOTE: The *Two Coats of Paint* 2023 Year-end Fundraising Campaign is underway, and our goal this year is to reach 100% reader participation. If you enjoy the artist interviews, exhibition reviews, NYC and HV Selected Gallery Guides, and other *Two Coats* painting-centric content, this is your opportunity to be a part of it. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution to support the project in 2024. Thank you for all your help keeping the conversation going.**

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Tags: 5-50 Gallery, Hannah Antalek, Heather Drayzen, Long Island City, Superseed

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