

Brian Calvin at Anton Kern Gallery, New York

BY BLOUIN ARTINFO | SEPTEMBER 21, 2017



 View Slideshow

Brian Calvin, *Exhale*, 2017, Acrylic on Canvas, 60 inches
(Brian Calvin & Anton Kern Gallery)

RELATED

VENUES

Anton Kern

ARTISTS

Brian Calvin

Anton Kern Gallery presents the California-based painter [Brian Calvin](#)'s fifth solo show with the gallery in New York.

In his new body of work Brian Calvin experiments with paintings, drawings and sculpture alike in an animated approach. The works features tightly-cropped portrait paintings, colored pencil drawings, and anthropomorphic wooden sculptures.

In his new series of works the artist introduces a whole new platform to express his artistic journey called, 'Tondos'. These are circular canvases whose cropping eliminates the background in every sense of it and frees the art-work from its holder space to negate the flatness of his compositions upon the rounded canvases. Also, with the exhibition, the artist introduces sculptures for the first time at the gallery. The sculptures are stilt-size painted wooden legs that lean against the wall that draws a reference of a group of idle teenage loiterers. The exhibition appropriates the evolution of the artistic journey in Calvin's reduced depiction and minimal approach to identify the human form, and allows a certain looseness to help opening up his pictorial vocabulary.

The artworks presented inherently dictate viewers to look past just the artworks of his intentional repetition of archetypal female figures and to consider the artist's invite to the idiosyncrasies behind the pretty faces that they are confronted by. It's the underplaying factor behind his formal choices. By being reduced to its absolute essential the faces are deconstructed to its bare existence of isolated eyes, lips, hair, each of these works offering a hidden code intended by the artist for left wrapped underneath for the viewer to excavate and interpret.

The eyes are aptly oversized to look past the spectator to employ a distance between the spectator and the artwork. Lips are paused between the middle of words, exposing the teeth that are charming and soft pink tongue revealed. The faces are cropped and often obstructed to enable the distance and drawing the audience towards its specific features. The fingernails showcase a mini landscape the shapes and gradations in the eyes shadows a sunset over the horizon. Calvin's palette of pastels renders dreamy and ocean blues refers to the eternal summer of California and the sweetness of youth.

The exhibition is on view from September 7 through October 7, 2017 at Anton Kern Gallery, 16 E 55th St, New York, NY 10022, USA.