

Gwyneth Leech: *Liminal New York*

June 15 — 26, 2022

@ Foley Gallery, 59 Orchard Street, New York, NY 10002
Wednesday-Saturday, 11-5:30pm & Sunday, 12-5pm



Gwyneth Leech, *Hudson Yards Rising with Encampment, View from West 29th Street*, 2021, oil on canvas, 36 x 44 in., GWN009

Garvey | Simon is pleased to present *Gwyneth Leech: Liminal New York* opening June 15, 2022 at Foley Gallery, 59 Orchard Street on the Lower East Side. *Liminal New York* features a selection of paintings from Gwyneth Leech, chronicling the evolution of New York City's skyline. Equal parts documentarian and poet, Leech's paintings center on internal frameworks, scaffolding and other temporarily visible structures; architectures that only exist as other architectures takes shape. *Liminal New York* observes these gestations from foundation to finish, capturing the transient adolescence of Manhattan's future giants. *Liminal New York* will be on view from June 15th through June 26th; an opening reception will take place on **Thursday, June 16th from 6-8pm.**

Gwyneth Leech tracks the progress of Manhattan construction with the sensitivity of an Impressionist painter. Initially struck by a skyscraper emerging outside her studio window, Leech became captivated by the choreography of construction and sense of temporality contained within the project. She often paints from the same vantage point multiple times, or conversely, the same subject from multiple street corners, tracking not only the pace of the urban development, but the more subtle, atmospheric indicators of the passage of time, as well. When viewed as a complete series, Leech's paintings delineate two individual timelines – that of the building's progress, and that of Manhattan's progress. When viewed through Leech's diligent attention, both chronologies are shown to ebb and wane, speeding up and slowing down at irregular intervals. Gwyneth Leech offers up a contemporary iteration of Monet's cathedrals and haystacks, pointing to a modernity in which there is a fleeting sense of permanence.



Gwyneth Leech, 53W53 and MoMA Extension, June Afternoon, 2018, acrylic on canvas, 15h x 30w in., GWN015

Leech does not only give primacy to the skyscrapers, broadening her scope to celebrate the inner structures as well as the cranes, scaffolding, and temporary machinery that raise them. Complex grids of rising steel columns and beams make up the skeletons of fledgling skyscrapers. Scaffolding and netting cast a labyrinthine pattern over the emerging sleek and imposing edifices. Despite their immensity, the internal supports and auxiliary architectures carry a sense of ephemerality. Their visibility is only temporary - they will be concealed or disappear as suddenly as they have arrived. Leech's interest in temporary structures shifted during the early days of the pandemic, moving from tall, aerial

structures to encampments of displaced peoples forming in the shadows of halted projects. Leech's parallel "skylines" emphasize the fragility of these shelters, shifting her vision of the city from epic to imposing.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Gwyneth Leech is an award-winning American artist who lives and works in New York City. Her artwork has been exhibited across the United States and Great Britain in galleries including Zürcher Gallery, Susan Teller Gallery and the Flatiron Prow Artspace in NYC, Geoffrey Young Gallery in Great Barrington MA and in museums including the Pearl Fincher Museum of Art in Houston, TX, the i.d.e.a. Museum in Mesa, AZ and the Aberdeen Art Gallery and Museum in Scotland. She has been featured in the New York Times, the Village Voice, international print media and on NY1 News. She is the subject of a multi-award winning short documentary, *The Monolith*, by New York filmmaker, Angelo Guglielmo. In November 2019, her construction paintings were featured on 1700 video kiosks across all five boroughs as part of Link NYC's "Art on Link" public art project.

Leech holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, and a BFA and Masters-level Postgraduate Degree from Edinburgh College of Art in Scotland. The recipient of numerous awards and grants, including a Hell's Kitchen Foundation Grant, several Scottish Arts Council awards, and a Thouron British/American Exchange Fellowship, Leech's artwork resides in private and public collections. Recent corporate acquisitions include Brookfield, Cimolai, Despé Italia, John Civetta and Sons, Metropolitan Walters, NYC Constructors, Sciame LLC, SL Green Realty, Stonebridge Inc and Walters Group Canada.

For viewings, more information, high resolution images, or sales inquiries please contact Elizabeth Garvey at liz@garveysimon.com, or 917-796-2146.