

Artspace

ARTIST TO WATCH

Artists to Watch in June 2018

By Artspace Editors

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MELISSA BROWN

Derek Eller, New York

May 31 - July 6



Melissa Brown, Image courtesy of Project:Artist

We last saw emerging New York-based painter Melissa Brown's hallucinatory works at Derek Eller Gallery back in 2017, in an eclectic group exhibition curated by Dan Nadel that also featured the works of emerging sculptor Genesis Belanger; established installation artist and painter Mimi Gross; and the late American funk art painter Roy De Forest. Now Brown returns to the Lower East Side Gallery with a solo exhibition titled "Between States." The artist's latest works appear in the same vein as earlier works in terms of technique—involving a unique process of layering oil painting, screen-printing, air-brush and stenciling to mimic feelings of disorientation. Known for drawing inspiration from her immediate natural surroundings paired

with cultural signifiers such as art historical references, a pack of playing cards, or long acrylic fingernails—here she uses nostalgic American imagery that she'd found while traversing America's South. Accompanying the works is a text by Brown, in which she describes the freedom of aimlessness she'd experienced while road tripping last fall, writing "peeling out and slamming into being in the right place at the right time, the fantasy that reality is changeable: it's what keeps us alive." A funhouse mirror of faded American dreams, Brown's newest works are an exciting direction for the artist.