

KATE WERBLE

ALISON HALL

A BALLAD (make it soft, make it low)

MAY 3 – JUNE 15, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

Kate Werble Gallery is thrilled to present the gallery's first solo exhibition with Alison Hall, after first exhibiting her work in a group show in 2014. Opening on May 3rd, the exhibition of Hall's new paintings will be on view through June 15th.

The title of Hall's show, *A Ballad (make it soft, make it low)*, comes from her close friend Annie Woodford's poem, "Make It Soft, Make it Low: A Poem for My Daughter," 2023. Hall and Woodford are longtime friends and collaborators living near one another in neighboring cities in Virginia and North Carolina. Hall's interest in the subtlety of language, and her nuanced, hand-drawn geometries laid in graphite on top of rich oil monochromes, painted on wooden panels, contribute to the softness of the new paintings. Many works in the show are small and hand cut in slightly imperfect geometric shapes – arches, diamonds and triangles. This is the first time Hall has taken the shapes from within her paintings and made them into the actual supports. Installed together along the gallery's walls, they read as pieces of a beautiful narrative, one gradually building upon the other.

Hall's paintings are slow to make and they are slow to reveal themselves; her patterned graphite marks record both the time and labor it takes to make them. When examined in person and up close, they have an energy and a frisson that occurs between the marks, emphasizing the seemingly continuous and discontinuous patterns. The labor-intensive nature of her paintings are an acknowledgment of Hall's ancestors and their history of working with their hands. And, the frames themselves are evidence of this labor, painted as the paintings themselves, fitting each shape perfectly. They finish the paintings, leaving them as complete objects.

Alison Hall (USA, b. 1980 in Martinsville, Virginia) received her BFA from Hollins University in 2001 (Roanoke, VA) and her MFA from American University in 2004 (Washington, DC and Corciano, IT). Hall has held solo exhibitions at Galerie Gisela Clement, Bonn, Germany (2022, 2018, 2016); SOCO Gallery, New York, NY (2022); Stephane Simoens Contemporary Fine Art, Knokke, Belgium (2021); Reynolds Gallery, Richmond, VA (2019, 2015); Robischon Gallery, Denver, CO (2019); Washington and Lee University, Staniar Gallery, Lexington, VA (2019); Selected Art Models (SAM), Cologne, Germany (2018); Taubman Museum of Art, Roanoke, VA (2013); William King Museum, Abingdon, VA (2013); and Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA (2012). Hall currently lives and works in Roanoke, VA.