

**ARTS
& REC**

OSMOS
STATION

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Jessie Lee Nash: *Fanfare*

opening Saturday, December 2

2:00-4:00pm

on view through January 7, 2024

Jessie Lee Nash (b. 1994, Cairns, Australia, lives in Hastings, UK) has been artist-in-residence at ARTS&REC for the months of October and November, 2023.

Nash was invited to come to Stamford after being hand-picked as one of ten artists to partake in TEAR, the Tracey Emin Artist Residency in Margate, UK. She arrived with a project idea based on the history of self-portraiture by female artists.

Working in her preferred palette of crimson, pink, and shades of muted reds, Nash created more than sixteen new paintings during her residency. While some reference the canon of female self portraiture more directly, others are only loosely inspired by the sujet, and are taken to more abstract and poetic ends.

An avid reader, Nash drew inspiration from one book in her Stamford studio, titled *Steal like an Artist* by Austin Kleon. Like any great artist, Nash did not borrow, but stole—liberally, wholeheartedly, funnily, and at times reverentially.

Many of Nash's appropriations model famous artists such as Frida Kahlo, Paula Modersohn-Becker, Alice Neel, Gwen John, Sarah Lucas, and Tracey Emin, while other works, such as *Self as wounded deer*, *Self as the internet*, and *Self as Stamford*, speak less about the art historical lineage Nash tackled and more directly confront emotions such as vulnerability, fear, and disorientation, but also groundedness, humor, and grace.

Talking about her series, Nash describes the conflicting and constricting role of classical training, in which life drawing (the fundamental format of technical instruction of the classical academy) was for many centuries the domain of men (save for the female model) and copying great works from the past was considered another aspect of schooling, while female artists were relegated to still life and self-portraiture—painting whatever was close at hand, and at the same time, opening themselves up to accusations of narcissism and vulnerability.

By inserting herself into some of the most famous female self-portraits of modern art, Nash not only models herself on the classical training mechanisms of copying but also relives symbolically the doubt, anxiety, oppression, anger, and tenderness these artists express in their works. Nash asks in what space knowledge, empathy, veneration, and critique converge—a space that, she argues, is created by respect and, ultimately, love.

Arts & Rec is a newly established community-oriented educational, cultural, and recreational non-profit organization in the village of Stamford, NY, with a commitment to bringing creative practitioners to Stamford and Delaware County and offering workshops to foster creativity and recreation.

Arts & Rec brings together, under one non-profit organization, programs that have operated at OSMOS Station in Delaware County for several years with the help of numerous local partners. Board President Cay Sophie Rabinowitz and Executive Director Christian Rattemeyer have spearheaded these efforts for the past seven years with the aid of nonprofit fiscal sponsorships, but formally filed for and received a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status for Arts & Rec in the fall of 2022.

This will be the fourth year they have presented their Youth Art Workshops and the seventh year of their Artist Residency program. Each program has grown in scope, success, outreach, and attendance year after year, and is still organized by the same team of instructors, administrators, and creatives that have directed in the past, with the added advantage of now operating under one supervising organization.

For more information on our upcoming events, please visit artsrec.org or follow [@ArtsandRec_Catskills](https://www.instagram.com/ArtsandRec_Catskills) on Instagram.

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