

LeBASSE Projects

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LeBasse Projects presents:

'Floating Gardens' New works from Melissa Haslam

**LeBasse Projects
6023 Washington Blvd
Culver City, CA 90232**

March 2nd – 30th, 2013

Artist reception: Saturday, March 2nd, 6-9p

Culver City, CA – LeBasse Projects is pleased to present an exhibition of all new paintings and works on paper from Australian artist Melissa Haslam. Known for her meticulous painting methods and refined images of pop culture, Haslam once again draws attention to constructed societal roles and an obsession with youth and perfection in a series of haunting new paintings and drawings entitled “Floating Gardens.”

In this enchanting new series, young, beautiful girls inhabit mystical garden spaces overgrown with foliage. Their hairstyles are coiffed perfectly and their outfits impeccable. The only disturbance is in their expressions, heavy with ennui and listlessness. The ambivalent female figures hint at the veiled but dangerous sexuality of Lolita. Standing amidst the flowers to which they are analogous, the girls are still in bloom.

Haslam turns her attention solely to flowers in several of her paintings and works on paper. Inspired by a fascination with scientific botanical and entomological illustrations, Haslam’s hyper-realistic technique in rendering the details of the flora and fauna recall Dutch still-life painters of the 16th through 18th centuries and their *vanitas* and *memento mori* masterpieces. Like the young girls, the flawless flowers—and their inevitable decay—are a reminder of the brevity and fragility of life.

The flowers are painted almost scientifically, but approach science-fiction as Haslam combines forms and repeats patterns to create her own hybrid species that disregard the rules of nature. In Haslam’s “Floating Gardens,” the artist has created a realm that is ravishingly beautiful with just a touch of the seductively sinister.

About LeBasse Projects

LeBasse Projects is a contemporary art gallery committed to showcasing the talents of a select group of international artists. Since opening its doors in Los Angeles’ Culver City Arts District in 2007, LeBasse highlights emerging talent and is focused on developing the careers of a select group including Yoskay Yamamoto, Mike Stilkey, Herakut, Nate Frizzell, Seonna Hong, Alexandros Vasmoulakis, Joshua Petker, Thomas Doyle and more.

For additional press inquiries please contact:
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