

***OLYMPIA***

41 Orchard St NYNY

10002 USA

[olympiart.org](http://olympiart.org)

*Be Not Afraid*  
Lee Maxey

October 30-December 4, 2021

# OLYMPIA

presents:

## *Be Not Afraid* Lee Maxey

Olympia is pleased to present ***Be Not Afraid***, a solo exhibition of recent egg tempera paintings by Lee Maxey. Though situated in a familiar domestic space, the images fixate on ordinary objects and scenes and transform them into queer emblems of a controlling, mystical world.

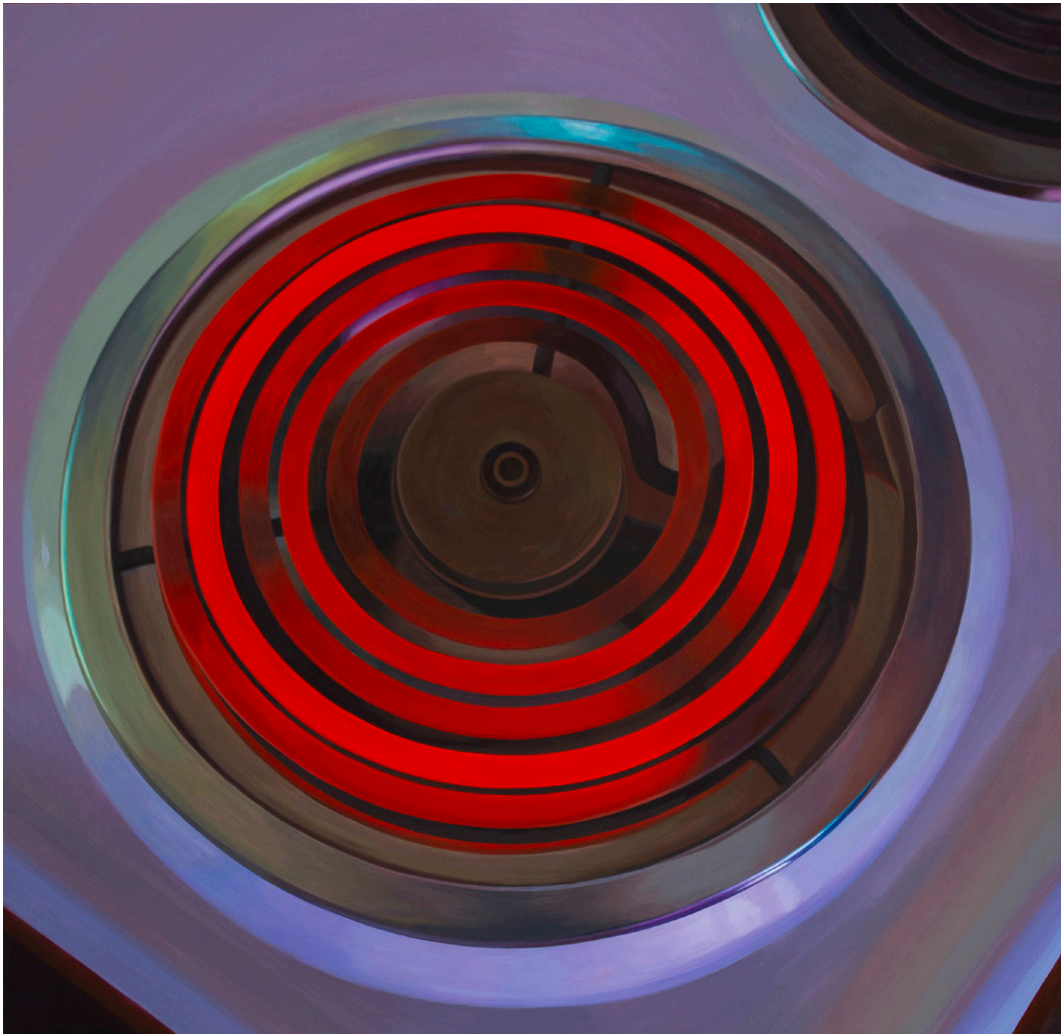
Lee's paintings revel in a world of spiritual otherness that borders on paranoia. Blatant symbols—an alarm, a rainbow, a crucifix—investigate the meaning of perception and storytelling. A gleaming blue gas stovetop becomes a portal; in the small space of a bathroom tile, the granite texture flickers between a landscape and a mushroom cloud. Maxey's approach to creating the kind of space that allows for multiple interpretations is in part a response to the religious Christian upbringing she chose to leave behind, where for centuries art relied on fixed symbols in order to aid in the study of scripture and to facilitate worship. Egg tempera further connects the work to a tradition of spiritual storytelling. The slow and deliberate technique the medium requires extends to the looking experience of the paintings themselves.

Born in Arkansas, Lee Maxey lives and works in Brooklyn. Recent exhibitions include a solo show at the Tribeca artist-run space Tribeca Hercules Art/Studio Program; group shows at Olympia and The Bureau of General Services: Queer Division; and a two-person exhibition in the 2019 SPRING/BREAK Art Show, all in NYC. Lee is an alumna of the Fire Island Artist Residency. She received her MFA in 2016 from Boston University and her BFA in 2011 from the University of Central Arkansas. She currently teaches painting at Brooklyn College.

***Be Not Afraid*** is accompanied by a book with an essay by Chantal Soong Lee and poetry by Sarah M. Sala.

Olympia will host a poetry reading on November 6th, in conjunction with the show. Participants include Stephon Lawrence, Zefyr Lisowski, Sahar Romani, Sarah M. Sala, Janelle Tan, and Robert Whitehead.

For additional information, please contact Ali Rossi at [arossi@olympiart.org](mailto:arossi@olympiart.org).

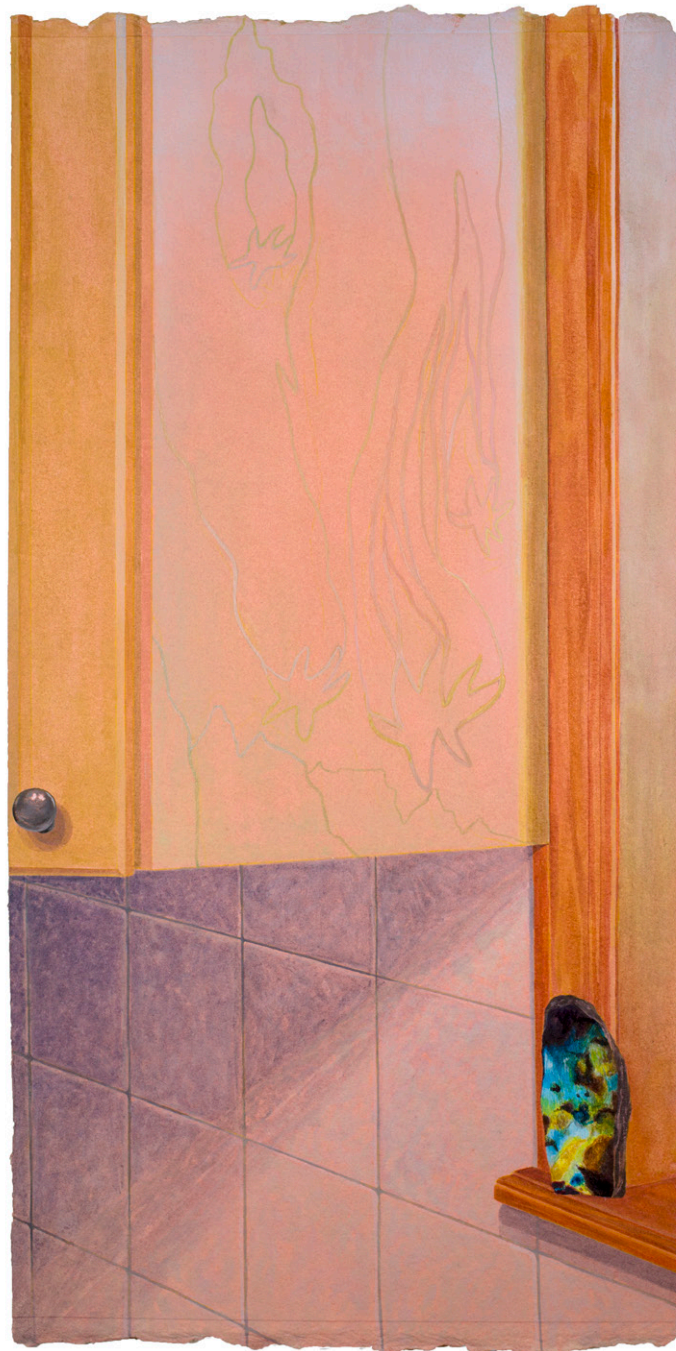


*Hypnotize*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
44.25 x 45 inches  
SOLD



*The Purple Ceiling*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
12 x 15 inches  
SOLD





*The Opening*, 2020  
Ink and egg tempera on hand toned paper  
22.5 x 11.5 inches  
\$1,300 framed

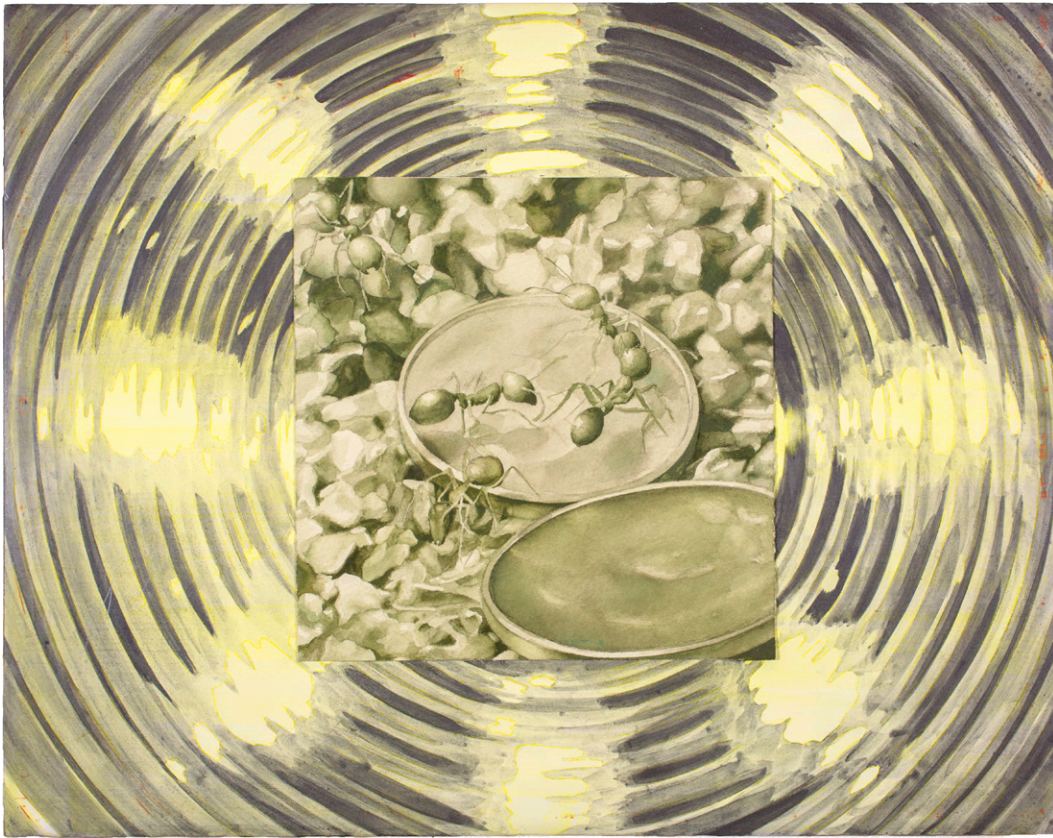


*Contour*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
12 x 25 inches  
\$2,000



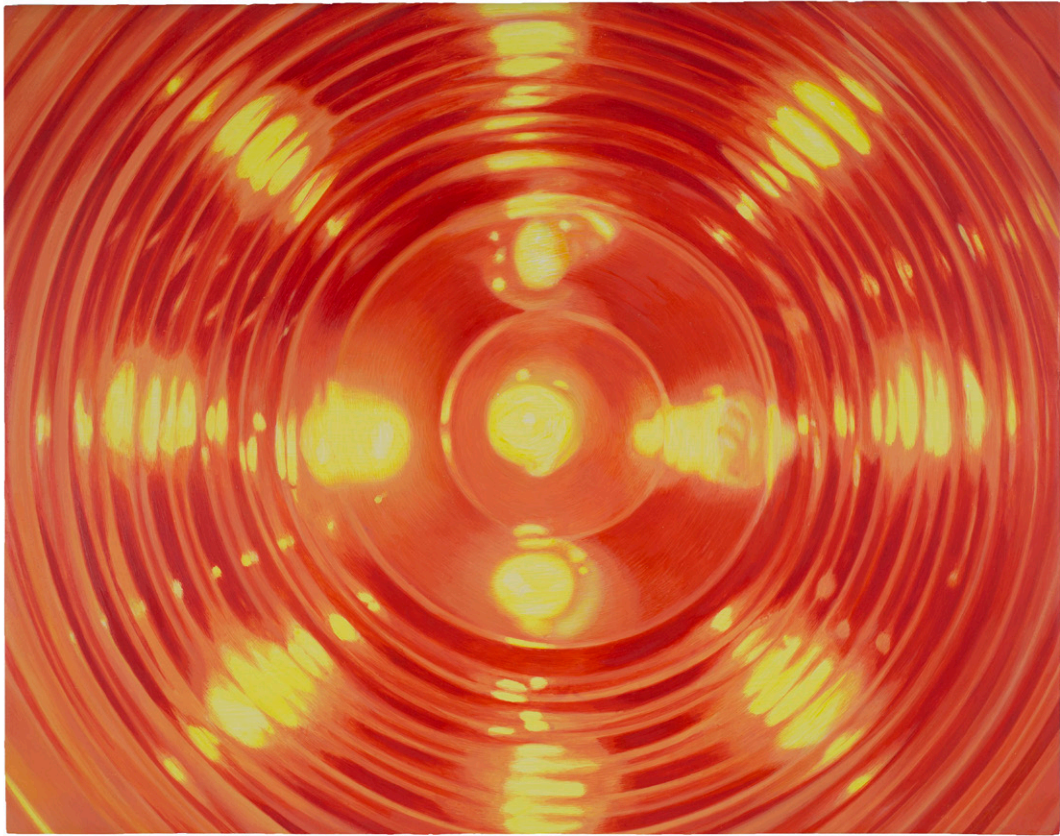
*Alert (after Blake), 2020*  
Watercolor and ink on paper and panel  
12 x 15 inches  
\$1,400





*Alert (after Wojnarowicz)*, 2021  
Watercolor and graphite on paper and panel  
12 x 15 inches  
\$1,400





*Alert*, 2020  
Egg tempera on panel  
12 x 15 inches  
\$1,400



*Thrum*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
15 x 12 inches  
SOLD





*Look out*, 2020  
Egg tempera on panel  
15 x 12 inches  
\$1,400



*Smolder*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
15 x 12 inches  
\$1,400





*Be Not Afraid*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
9 x 12 inches  
SOLD



*Bombs Away!*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
15 x 12 inches  
\$1,400





*Emanations*, 2020  
Egg tempera on panel  
15 x 12 inches  
\$1,400



*Winged Trance*, 2021  
Egg tempera on panel  
12 x 15 inches  
\$1,400





*Galaga*, 2020  
Egg tempera and ink on panel  
15 x 12 inches  
\$1,400



*Leak out*, 2020  
Egg tempera on panel  
12 x 9 inches  
SOLD