

# TIBOR DE NAGY

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## Delia Brown

### *Demoiselles d' Instagram*

May 10 to June 17, 2018

Opening reception: Thursday, May 10, 6-8 PM

Tibor de Nagy Gallery is pleased to present a show of new paintings by Delia Brown. This will be Brown's first exhibition at the gallery, and her first in New York City since 2010. Brown currently lives and works in Los Angeles.



Delia Brown “#roséallday,” 2018, oil on canvas, 74 x 60 inches

The exhibition *Demoiselles d' Instagram*, comprises six paintings, in which Brown explores how our high-tech culture encourages and facilitates a preoccupation with our own image, and shines a light on the flattening of our relationship to the larger world we inhabit. Specifically, Brown mines the “selfie” sub-genres of the mirror selfie and the gym selfie, in which the subject's smartphone is included in the image. Brown alludes to the ways self-centered “self-improvement” (through diet, yoga, body-building, etc.) have come to replace other ennobling pursuits that would prioritize our inter-connectedness. Surrounding the women, who seem perpetually stuck in a stunting relationship with their own images, we see exaggeratedly cute harp seals swimming, floating, and dying, as well as polar bears barely hanging on to breaking and shrinking ice floes. The endangered animals act as a conscience, lost on the female subjects, alluding to the vast world of suffering and need that the women's device-induced myopia eclipses.

This exhibition marks a stylistic shift for the artist. Brown is well known for a more refined and incisive realism, based on photographs she stages and shoots herself. Her new works' looser, more adventurous paint handling comes out of a particular personal and cultural context. In 2009, the artist moved from New York back to her native Los Angeles, and encountered numerous life-altering challenges, including the death of her father and a battle with cancer (she is currently in remission). She was jolted into action by the 2016 election and became active as an organizer in the resistance movement. But like many who feel overwhelmed by the political climate in our country, this focus left Brown in a state of constant anxiety. Doing away with photographic source-material — and allowing her compositions to evolve intuitively, through the build-up of painterly experimentation — proved a welcome

respite from her angst. In her words, “The paintings gave me problems...formal problems...problems which I could actually solve. And that gave me a sense of agency, when otherwise all I was feeling was powerless.”

Brown has always worked in thematic series; her past areas of inquiry have included affluence, indulgence, and indolence. She often appeared as a character in her own paintings, keeping the point of view personal and passionately ambivalent, always implicating herself in the critique. The artist both identified with and was troubled by her subjects and their aspirations. This impulse and dynamic continues in her new work.

Since receiving her MFA from UCLA in 2000, Brown has had numerous solo shows at D’Amelio Terras, Margo Leavin Gallery, and Baldwin Gallery, among others. Her work is in the permanent collections of The Los Angeles County Museum of Art, The Seattle Art Museum, and The Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive. She is currently included in the exhibition “Soft Corners” at Richard Telles Gallery, Los Angeles.

About Tibor de Nagy:

Tibor de Nagy continues its significant role in contemporary American Art since its founding in 1950. In June 2017, the gallery moved to the Lower East Side, joining Betty Cuninghame Gallery in a shared space at 15 and 11 Rivington Streets.

Tibor de Nagy Gallery presents exhibitions of such contemporary artists as Sarah McEneaney, Trevor Winkfield and Jen Mazza, as well artists from the Post War second generation New York School. Its long history includes the first exhibitions of Carl Andre, Helen Frankenthaler, Jane Freilicher, Red Grooms, Grace Hartigan, Alfred Leslie, Fairfield Porter, and Larry Rivers. The gallery’s program continues its mission to present a broad overview of contemporary art of singular vision including recent exhibitions of Hannah Wilke, Francis Picabia, and Jess. This unique history has also fostered collaborations between poets and artists. The gallery was the first publisher of the poems of John Ashbery, Frank O’Hara, Kenneth Koch, and James Schuyler.

Listings Information:

Tibor de Nagy Gallery is located at 15 Rivington Street on the Lower East Side

Tel: 212 262 5050. | Web: [www.tibordenagy.com](http://www.tibordenagy.com) | Email: [info@tibordenagy.com](mailto:info@tibordenagy.com)

Gallery Hours: Wednesday – Saturday 10am – 6pm, Sunday 12pm – 6pm

Social Media:

Join the conversation on social media by mentioning Tibor de Nagy and using the hashtags #DeliaBrown and #tibordenagy when posting. Facebook: Tibor de Nagy Gallery | Instagram: [@tibordenagygallery](https://www.instagram.com/tibordenagygallery) | Twitter: [@TiborDeNagy](https://twitter.com/TiborDeNagy)