

Josephine Taylor

Teenagers Are Beautiful

April 23 – May 28, 2016

Join us for an opening with the artist
on Saturday, April 23
from 12 noon - 2 pm



Josephine Taylor in her studio, with
work in progress

San Francisco, CA: Catharine Clark Gallery announces *Teenagers Are Beautiful*, a solo exhibition of new works on paper by Josephine Taylor. On view April 23 – May 28, 2016, the exhibit features four large scale drawings and several smaller works on paper which depict a glimpse into the raw and beautiful landscape of contemporary adolescence. Taylor's exhibit pairs with a media room presentation of two videos by Lenka Clayton. Taylor will be present for the opening reception on Saturday, April 23, from 12 noon - 2 pm.

Josephine Taylor's new work risks praise for the irrational, impulsive and precarious years of adolescence. Inspired by everyday scenes near a public San Francisco high school, these drawings explore the physical proximity, sense of place, and intrinsic beauty of groups of teenagers. This is new territory for Taylor—a radical departure from the fantastical and distorted figures in sexual battle depicted in her 2011 *Monsterface* exhibit. And yet, Taylor's unique ability to exquisitely render repulsive and repellent scenes remains transformative. In *Don't Trust Sluts*, a dirty, public bathroom floor hosts a pair of teenagers entwined in make-out oblivion. Splay-thighed, a young girl cradles her friend's head in her lap, while lounging on a littered sidewalk in *Trash Can*. Taylor's new body of work illuminates everything adults forget about teenage life. The hierarchy of needs is narrow: sex, romance, friendship, drugs and music. The

desire for intimacy reigns supreme. Experience trumps landscape, and love eclipses logic. Instead of criticizing teenage desire, Taylor's work encourages viewers to be galvanized by the potential of living in a more purely visceral, emotional space. With a nod to adolescent tagging and graffiti, Taylor's portrays her subjects with acrylic inks sprayed through an airbrush gun, using both freehand technique and hand-cut stencils. Many of the figures are life-size or larger, lending a sense of gravity to a world of backpacks and purses, dirty corners, clutter, and wild messes of this adolescent milieu. *Teenagers Are Beautiful* possesses a voyeuristic hypnotism—enticing viewers with the elusive world they once inhabited, and still wish they could.

A previous recipient of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art SECA Award, Taylor's exhibit coincides with the public events leading up to the re-opening of SFMOMA, and celebrates her inclusion in the museum's permanent collection.

Josephine Taylor | *Teenagers Are Beautiful*

April 23 – May 28, 2016

Saturday, April 23 : Opening reception and exhibit walk through with the artist

12 noon – 2 pm.

This event is free and open to the public.

Media inquiries contact Allison Stockman: marketing@cclarkgallery.com

Josephine Taylor studied Religion and East Indian Languages as an undergraduate at the University of Colorado before pursuing a graduate degree in Fine Art at the San Francisco Art Institute. Taylor creates narrative drawings on enormous sheets of paper using diluted permanent ink washes. She prefers to install this work unframed. Her work primarily examines the emotional and psychological remnants of the childhood and adolescent experience. Though her subject matter is intensely personal and rendered with a tender fragility, her large-scale paper works defy any assumption of intimacy. Taylor was a recipient of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art SECA Award and was included in the California Biennial at the Orange County Museum of Art in 2004. Her work has been on exhibition all over the United States and also internationally at the Nordic Watercolor Museum in Sweden in 2008. Her work is in the permanent collections of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, and the Museum of Modern Art, New York. In 2013 Taylor's work was featured in *OFF-SPRING: New Generations*, a group exhibition at 21c Museum in Cincinnati, Ohio. Most recently, her work was included in an exhibit curated by Brett Reichman at CB1 Gallery titled, *Tight Ass: Labor Intensive Drawing and Realism*. She lives and works in San Francisco and has shown with Catharine Clark Gallery since 2003.