



Shannon Cartier Lucy
Fooled again

Dec. 4 – February 27, 2021

Despite her career's upward momentum at the time, the artist fled New York a few years after 9/11, leaving behind her a nagging heroin habit among other things. With New York City out of the picture, Lucy got clean, pursued a masters degree and became a psychotherapist. The artist had grown up with a schizophrenic father, piquing her interest in psychotherapy and imparting its influence on her painting practice which may explain the well-wrought sense of unease the artist brings to her troubled human subjects and their uncanny settings.

In *The Invitation*, a card is subtly removed from a bouquet that might come with the invitation. The atmosphere is fresh with expectations, the character is dressed virginally in white with a baptismal cross around the neck. Peaches and roses are displayed in the basket and cherries hangs around the ears. All the signs of a new season of youth, hope, innocence and beauty are here. On another wall we find *Woman with Bow*, where here, all hopes are gone. Something seemingly as the end of innocence had occurred. No violence and sexual trauma is visually indicated, but the space of claustrophobia Lucy creates is one of deep loneliness. In another painting a simple flower bouquet is the center of the work, maybe an action is taking place off frame...?

Despite this absence of occurrence, Lucy is summoning the subconscious mind to the forefront.

Shannon Cartier Lucy's paintings are loquacious despite seeming unassuming. They thrust us towards the edge of a precipice right where our inhibitions ends and our subconscious begins. Suddenly, we find ourselves in the entrails of a complex labyrinth where the walls are moving, reconfiguring the very space we're walking through. Are we looking inside someone else's mind or our own?

Now the scene is set in the moments preceding our awaking. We are knee-deep in a lucid dream. Our subconscious is soliloquizing. The hushed tones and the mostly desaturated color palette render the surroundings slightly lugubrious. We have the power to wake up, but we opt to stay in this parallel universe.

Shannon Cartier Lucy (b. 1977, Nashville, TN) lives and works in Nashville and studied at New York University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree. She also received a Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee. She has exhibited at Kathleen Cullen Gallery, New York, NY; Team Gallery, New York, NY; Edward Cella Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; and Cynthia Broan Gallery, New York, NY. In 2020 She had solo exhibitions at LUBOV, NY, De Boer Gallery, Los Angeles, CA; and Nina Johnson, Miami, FL.

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