



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. On another wall we find *Woman with Bow*, here all hopes are gone and something seemingly as the end of innocence had occurred. No violence and sexual trauma is visually indicated, but this space of claustrophobia Lucy creates is one of deep loneliness. In another painting a simple flower bouquet is the center of the work, maybe another scene is taking place off frame...?

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

Now the scene is set in the moments preceding your awaking. You are knee-deep in a lucid dream. Your subconscious is soliloquizing. The hushed tones and the mostly desaturated color palette render the surroundings slightly lugubrious. You have the power to wake up, but you 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.