

For Immediate Release

Botting

HEIRESS

March 17th - May 5th, 2023

Opening Reception: March 17th, 6 - 9 PM ET



HEIRESS is pleased to announce the solo exhibition, *Botting*, by D.C. based artist, Elliot Avis. This is the artist's first solo show with the gallery. The exhibition presents a number of new paintings on paper and canvas.

Botting explores narratives of identity and labor through the lens of fantasy gaming and digital avatars. Referencing the crude, blocky renderings and limited color palette of early

2000's games such as Runescape, Elliot's paintings highlight the unique collaboration of human error and perfect digital code. The artist uses this relationship between humanity and digital technology as a catalyst to discuss the links between labor ideology, feudalism, and economic progression. The works speak to how in some instances, a browser-based mmorpg can have, in theory, a more stable economy than that of the "real world." We are provided a reality where progress can be seen and measured, and where the player is rewarded for their efforts.

Elliot treats these paintings with a level of care and seriousness. He references the works of old masters in multiple ways. Aside from the immediately recognizable aesthetic and historic ties in Avis' paintings like *Haystack* (23'), or *Saint Sebastian* (23') he also manages to find a conceptual common ground in the way he references labor itself, even if that labor is enacted through proxy of the avatar. This idea is directly referenced in the artist's works such as, *Flax Field* (23') and *Stonebreakers* (23').

Botting is a visual exploration of the way Elliot is able to approach these complex and seemingly micro ideas in a way that is exceedingly joyous and playful. Simultaneously, Elliot contextualizes the work and themes into the greater scheme of a macro economy and the culture and systems which exist through and by way of that.



Elliot Avis (B. 1995) is an artist based in Washington D.C. who works in painting, sculpture, and installation. Born in Philadelphia he went on to study studio art at Denison University where he would receive his BFA, and later at the Cranbrook Academy of art where he would receive his MFA in Painting. Alongside his studio practice and education, he is also a teacher, having taught middle and high school art at the Berwick Academy in Maine, and currently teaches middle school art at the Congressional School in Virginia.

HEIRESS

2622 Fairfield Ave S. Building 7 Unit A
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Wednesday - Thursday
Noon to 3pm EST or by appointment

Friday-Sunday
3pm to 6pm or by appointment

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Finn Schult or Erica Luedtke
info@heiressgallery.com

Caption and courtesy information

Monkfish, 2023
Oil on canvas
30 x 42 inches

Saint Sebastian, 2023
Oil on canvas
61 x 72 inches