

BIO

Ashley Norwood Cooper

1970

New York-based artist Ashley Norwood Cooper paints imaginative works that explore the creative lives of women, the awkwardness of family relationships, and the unpredictability of the natural world - all engendering dialogue surrounding domesticity and motherhood through the heroic lens of the ordinary. Through textural and expressive oil paintings, the artist sheds light on the quotidian details of contemporary family life, while commenting the vexing societal issues at large. Applying thick paint by brush, palette knife, or her own fingers, she demonstrates her idiosyncratic spirit, revelling in the messiness of creation. The artist notes, "nothing makes a mess like paint. It oozes and stains, drips and streaks, fades, chips and permeates."

Born in South Carolina, Cooper received her undergraduate degree in Latin from the University of Georgia, Athens following the renaissance that produced R.E.M and the B-52's, Upon returning to Greenville, Cooper met and married her husband, relocated to the midwest and received her MFA in painting from Indiana University.

Cooper has exhibited in solo and group shows in the US and Europe. Her work has been featured in New American Paintings and on the I Like Your Work Podcast. Her debut at VOLTA NYC 2020 with ZINC contemporary garnered write ups in the NY Times and Arcade Project (Columbia University). Cooper's paintings are included in public and private collections in the United States and Europe including the McEvoy Foundation for the Arts (San Francisco) and Greenville County Museum of Art (South Carolina). Cooper's recent solo exhibition at the Fenimore Museum entitled SWARM, explores the world through the metaphoric journey of both the bee and the unfolding role of the mother, wife, daughter, teacher, artist.