

# I N M A N G A L L E R Y

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 27, 2024

Inman Gallery is pleased  
to present

## CHARIS AMMON *Meanwhile*

May 3 – July 6, 2024

Opening Reception  
Friday, May 3, 5:00—7:00pm

Artist in Conversation  
Saturday, May 4, 1:00pm



Charis Ammon, *Fresh Flowers*, 2024  
oil on canvas on board, 6 x 8 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm)

Inman Gallery is pleased to present **Charis Ammon: *Meanwhile***, on view May 3 – July 6, 2024. The exhibition opens **Friday, May 3**, with a reception from **5–7pm**. An artist talk between Ammon and writer Reid Sharpless will take place **Saturday May 4 at 1pm**. This will be Ammon's third solo show at the gallery.

Charis Ammon paints quotidian images to document her encounters with urban landscapes and everyday environments. She captures the city both as a site of flux: construction zones, urban development, and concrete, and as a setting of connection. The resulting compositions ask us to consider places and moments we often overlook or disregard, to (re)orient our attention towards the present moment.

***Meanwhile*** presents a new suite of paintings exploring quiet intimacies: buckets of flowers in bodega entryways, dewy raindrops on plastic sheaths for bouquets, HEB greeting cards waiting to be purchased, and closeups of socks, implying a private moment at home. The exhibition marks a transition from the artist's previous grittier cityscapes and construction sites towards softer subject matter. The imagery is still "in the city" – grocery stores, bodegas, flower shop storefronts – but the gaze has shifted to capturing public places that speak to private expressions.

However, the circumstances that prompt these private expressions remain outside the scope of the paintings, fortifying the works' emotional depth. Ammon's subject matter – cards and flowers *waiting* to be purchased – piques our curiosity as to what is happening, or did happen,

or could happen to necessitate these gifts. Is this gesture joyous or mournful? With the absence of people to indicate the celebratory or commemorative nature of an event, we as the viewer are left wondering. Read in this light, the works take on a melancholic tone, reflecting both the unease of an unknown outcome and the warmth of the thoughtful gesture itself.



Charis Ammon, *Meanwhile*, 2024  
oil on canvas, eight panels, each 70 x 26 inches (15.2 x 20.3 cm)

The titular work, a monumental, multi-panel painting depicting a flower shop refrigerator, responds to this very notion of thick stillness amid anticipation. Painted to-scale, the surface reveals frosted glass and foggy windows partitioning receding space. While life-shaking events divide our sense of time into 'befores' and 'afters,' Ammon calls attention to how we navigate the 'meanwhile.' Other titles, like

"Sharing a Bag of Chips" (sock painting) or "You, Me, and Everybody Else" (valentine card display kiosk), point to the material markers of quality time in these moments. The card paintings have a more humorous tone, siphoning through several templates that don't "fit" until something rings true. The sock paintings capture a more tender moment at home, just talking or snacking with a friend or a love, reminding us that being present is a gift too.

By painting gifts and rituals that form around the in-between moments of life events Ammon expresses the physical ways we communicate care. In their depiction of gesture, the works capture the joys, humor, and tenderness of sharing a life with others. Ammon's canvases occupy the same space as the bouquets and cards they depict—when words are unavailable or feel inadequate, a painting gestures towards the feelings we carry.

## SPECIAL EVENT

**Charis Ammon in Conversation with Reid Sharpless**  
**Saturday, May 4, 1pm**

**Charis Ammon** (born 1992, Dallas, TX) holds a BFA in Painting from Texas State University and an MFA in Painting from The University of Houston. Ammon's solo exhibitions include *Where Do You Go When You Are On Your Way?*, Alexander DiJulio Gallery, New York, NY (2023), *Palm Trees and City Debris*, Texas State University Gallery, San Marcos, TX (2022), *Inheritance* at The Old Jail Art Center, Albany, TX (2020), and *Maintenance* at Art League Houston (2019), as well as two solo exhibitions at Inman Gallery (2021, 2018). Her work was recently included in *Night Work*, Alexander DiJulio Gallery, New York, NY (2024), *In Being Double: The Pace Staff Show*, Pace Gallery, New York, NY (2023), *Book Arts of Houston*, The Printing Museum, Houston TX (2023), *Urban Impressions: Experiencing the Global Contemporary Metropolis*, Moody Center for the Arts, Rice University, Houston, TX (2022) and *The Big Show*, Lawndale Art Center, Houston (2022). She lives and works in Brooklyn, NYC.

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