

For Immediate Release

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## **MARCELYN MCNEIL**

### ***Compact Fictions***

**Artist Reception: Saturday, March 28, 6:00 – 8:30 pm**

On view: March 28 – April 25, 2015

“If the flat shapes I depict were able to step off the canvas and occupy space, how much would they weigh, are they bulbous, muscular, lithe or buoyant...?”

Marcelyn McNeil

Anya Tish Gallery is pleased to present *Compact Fictions*, an exhibition featuring Marcelyn McNeil’s newest body of large-scale abstract oil paintings, and introducing intimate, multilayered works on paper. McNeil continues to explore the converging of forms that are simultaneously perceived as flat and having mass, resulting in a curious and engrossing visual experience.

The artist describes her process as “wedging together areas of paint”, creating a “meaningful infrastructure” as if organizing a workspace or constructing a building. McNeil, a master of intuition, makes way for the evolution of each work, taping, pouring, sanding, and trowelling the deep, vibrant, matte hues until she has reached another of the electric compositions she is known for. Paint may drip and bleed across the canvas, creating incidental color punctuations among the gestural geometries, and allowing the works to give home to the flawed beauty of happy accidents. While suggestive of amorphous architecture, the inanimate shapes emit a bodily presence, forming playful relationships and tensions among each other, and forging a dynamic harmony that is asymmetrical yet peculiarly balanced. Teetering between geometric and biomorphic, the aptly placed forms attain a sculptural quality, giving the illusion that they might exist in real space.

Marcelyn McNeil earned an MFA from the University of Illinois in Chicago, Illinois, and a BFA from the Pacific Northwest College of Art in Portland, Oregon. She has resided in Houston since, has been exhibiting in numerous solo and group exhibitions nationwide, and was selected for the Texas Biennial in both 2011 and 2013. McNeil was awarded a Fellowship with the prestigious MacDowell Colony, and has received numerous awards and acknowledgements, including the CAAP grant from the City of Chicago, Department of Cultural Affairs; a Fellowship with the University of Illinois at Chicago; and the Purchase Award from the Portland Art Museum. She has been a finalist three times for the Hunting Art Prize, and has been included in four separate publications of *New American Paintings Western Edition*. Her works can be found in various public and private collections, including the Portland Art Museum, Portland, Oregon; The Emprise Bank Collection, Wichita, Kansas; and The Harvard House at Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.