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Sydney Licht  
*Scatter / Gather*

February 20<sup>th</sup> – March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Opening Reception: February 27, 6 – 8pm

NEW YORK, NY — January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 — Kathryn Markel Fine Arts is pleased to present *Scatter / Gather*, an exhibition of new work by Sydney Licht. The show marks the artist's fifth solo show with the gallery.

Sydney Licht modernizes the conventions of still life painting by shifting the subject matter to signifiers of contemporary consumer culture. Our visual lives are cluttered with packages, clothing and furnishings that come to us in a swirl of color and pattern. This is reflected in Licht's compositions and artistic process:

“We acquire and discard constantly. Knowing that the objects I'm depicting are on their way to the recycling bin affects the way I paint them. This enables me to think about those items from a more complicated perspective. Underlying my scattering and gathering activity is an expression of both desire and loss.”

Licht's paintings offer us a vision of skewed perception and abstracted forms, through which overlooked corners of everyday life are elevated to subjects of utmost intrigue. The abandoned boxes, artful packaging, and mundane objects that are remnants of our fast-paced lifestyle are arranged as sensitively as the vases and fruits of still lives from long ago. Their shapes, patterns, and colors are heightened through a painterly technique and unusual perspectives that allow us see these ever-present objects as if for the first time. The intimate scale of the paintings and close-cropped compositions lend a tenderness to that which we might otherwise consider disinteresting or undesirable.

Sydney Licht has exhibited widely throughout the United States. Her work has been featured in the *New Yorker* and *Elle Décor*, among other publications. She has been a visiting artist at the American Academy in Rome twice, and the recipient of the Yaddo Residency. Licht has an MFA from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and lives and works in New York City.



Sydney Licht  
*Chair and Pillow*, 2019  
oil on panel  
24 x 24 in.

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