

**Julia Haller**

September 28 – October 29, 2017

Svetlana

77 Madison Street  
New York NY 10002

Gallery Hours:

Thursday-Sunday, 12-6pm

Svetlana is pleased to present an exhibition of new paintings by Julia Haller. The show marks the opening of the gallery's new permanent location on Manhattan's lower east side. This is Haller's first exhibition in New York.

For the show, Haller exhibits a suite of paintings that echo forms which have appeared in earlier works. The panels are a dirty white over which darker forms creep; the most prominent resemble the kind of pennant banners that might line the entrances of discount shops or car lots or country fairs. They are two dimensional representations of things that appear to the eye as images: flat, graphic, emptied of content. This subject matter is artificial in some sense, depicting markers which animate space rather than occupy it.

I met Haller in New York when she first visited in 2016. We had been emailing for a few weeks and she came to one of our openings. I was talking to somebody whose name I forget, and she kicked me in the leg. She was traveling with this guy Nicola, who I assumed was her partner. We went around to some bars and parties together. Then I invited the two of them plus some random Italian collector to my apartment where we drank. Eventually the three decamped for nearby hotels, and my wallet disappeared.

When we hung out, we spoke for many hours, but I'm not sure we got to know each other so much better. Instead, the ambiance of everywhere we went seemed foregrounded by our conversations. I appreciated that about her and Nicola, this kind of presentness. Haller's paintings similarly seem to speak but don't say much about themselves. There are references you could make to continental abstraction in the last few decades, as some writers have. But her works make themselves fugitive to this kind of contextual pinning down. They move in and out of historical dialogs like people stepping in and out of bars, restaurants.