

**PRESSBOOK**

Emily Mae SMITH

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THESE 20 FEMALE ARTISTS ARE PUSHING FIGURATIVE PAINTING FORWARD

[Emily Mae Smith](#) [Follow](#)

B. 1979, Austin, Texas. Lives and works in Brooklyn, New York



Emily Mae Smith, *The Studio, Odalisque*, 2016. Photo by Max Slaven. Courtesy of the artist and Mary Mary, Glasgow.

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Packing her paintings with nods to Warhol, Lichtenstein, broomstick people à la Disney’s *Fantasia*, or the late Victorian-era art magazine *The Studio*, Smith adopts familiar characters and tropes to create glossy, graphic paintings that convey a distinct pop aesthetic. Her work also offers cheeky commentary on issues like gender, capitalism, and violence. “I have always worked with images, signs, and representations,” Smith says. “I dislike the notion of calling painting ‘figurative’ or ‘abstract,’ as the nature of painting is both at all times. A lot of the bodies in my work have been fictional, are often objects, or not even human.” In her recent solo exhibition at Mary Mary in Glasgow, Smith presented her series of recurring broomstick characters, who appear under different guises and filters—rendered in Benday Dots, as Warhol’s *Double Elvis* (1963), or in a sensual odalisque pose and psychedelic skin.