

PRESSBOOK

Jesse MOCKRIN

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Jesse Mockrin Recalls the Rococo Period At Night Gallery

By Ann Binlot | March 31, 2016

There's something about Jesse Mockrin's paintings that transport the viewer back to the 18th century. Perhaps it's the soothing color palette, or the wispy curves found in the movement of her subjects and the silhouette of their voluminous clothes or the flora used both in the outfits and the backdrop.

That's because Mockrin, whose exhibition, *The Progress of Love*, is currently on view at Night Gallery in Los Angeles through April 16, was inspired by the work that came from French painters, like Jean-Honoré Fragonard and François Boucher, who were part of the Rococo period.



"Comes in Colours Everywhere" by Jesse Mockrin (Night Gallery)

"There were some interesting things in Rococo where the men also have flowers in their hair when they're out in the landscape," notes Mockrin. "It's not just women. My friend was saying that some thing that registers as something that's feminine in one painting, that same thing will register as masculine in another."

Mockrin was intrigued by the marks of gender identity during that era. She also cited men's fashion as inspiration, in particular, that found in Japanese and Korean men's fashion magazines, and by the florals and ties in Gucci men's spring 2016 collection. "One of the things I was always fascinated by in these old paintings are the clothes, they're so different," said the artist. "The way gender is decided or determined in those clothes, it's so different."



"Garden of Love" by Jesse Mockrin (Night Gallery)

The paintings' inclusion of contemporary references, give viewers a new lens to view classical painting through. "There's so many things you can do with paint," said the artist. "I want to master that vocabulary as much as I can."