

Kerry Irvine: **Behind the Veil**

January 27 - February 28, 2022

Gallery 8

Opening Reception January 27, 2022

6-8 PM

508 W. 28th Street

New York, New York 10001

January 19, 2022 - *High Line Nine* presents a solo show of recent work by Kerry Irvine: *Behind the Veil*. The ten paintings on display are a result of Irvine's endless inner volley between expressing her true self and wanting to feel hidden and safe from scrutiny.



Jezebel, 2021 | oil & mixed media on paper | 45"x38"

Irvine reflects on the ways that the patriarchal and Catholic ideologies she grew up with have influenced her as a person and artist. She recalls the always present, veiled women of her upbringing: a chaste nun in a somber black habit, a young girl veiled for her First Holy Communion, the Virgin Mary wrapped in blue. Mary is the ultimate aspirational figure for women raised in the Catholic faith. "Her purity and perfection are unattainable ideals that wear heavy on a woman's shoulders," says Irvine.

Veiling oneself is a common experience for women. They are taught to cover up or change who they are through make-up, lighting, clothing, and extreme cosmetic surgery. "We are in constant pursuit of new ways to veil our physical truth. This applies to inner truths as well, encouraging women to change the way they behave and move through the world," Irvine explains.

Exploring this concept, “Behind the Veil” celebrates various women of the Bible whose truth and fire were dimmed and distorted by powerful men. Some pieces are free, with bold gestural strokes and vibrant colors while others are monochrome, mixed with hazy, gauzy textures. Her art takes advantage of an abstract vocabulary that pushes painting to dramatic lengths but still allows the viewers to be part of the meaning-making.

Meditating on these influences and realizations, Irvine believes her maturity as an artist and a woman has allowed her to begin to tackle the fear and embrace the unexpected. “I have begun to stop fighting against the craggy, scratchy lines. It is no longer as necessary to tame and smooth my marks. I have found that perfection is unattainable and frankly rather boring”.



The Veiled Lady, 2021
oil and mixed media on paper
69 1/2” x 55”

Kerry Irvine is an abstract expressionist painter living and working in New York City. Highly expressive, her work is infused with light color, motion, and a bit of mysticism. Through these elements, she takes us on a personal journey of vulnerability while allowing room for viewers to bring their perspectives to the story. Irvine’s passion for art was nurtured by her late mother, also an abstract expressionist painter.

Rooted in color and form, her work often calls on nature, landscape, and the human figure to inspire her. Currently, Irvine’s studio is located on the 80th floor of 3 World Trade Center, allowing the expansive views of the city to complement the expressive



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lines of her work. Irvine holds a BFA from C.W. Post Long Island University and spent four years at The Art Students League of New York. Her work is included in the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York, as well as in private collections in the United States and abroad.

High Line Nine is a multi-disciplinary collection of nine skylit exhibition spaces located in the heart of Chelsea’s premier gallery district and reimagining the white cube gallery model into an experiential gallery presenting art in all its forms and stages. Working closely with the city’s top cultural institutions, High Line Nine presents rotating salient exhibitions, provides publicly visible studio space through its renowned Artist Residency and produces ongoing highly curated performances free and open to the public. High Line Nine is committed to celebrating and promoting the flourishing of all the voices of its colorful community. Follow High Line Nine at [@thehighlinenine](https://www.instagram.com/thehighlinenine) and learn more at [highlinenine.com](https://www.highlinenine.com).

High Line Nine runs directly under the High Line, with entrances at 507 W. 27th Street and 508 W. 28th Street. “Behind the Veil” is on view in Gallery 8 at the north end of the corridor. Masks are required in the corridor and all visitors must be vaccinated to enter the galleries. For more information, please visit [highlinenine.com](https://www.highlinenine.com).

Press Inquiries or any other questions can be directed to hello@highlinenine.com.