

LOIS LAMBERT GALLERY **KAREN SIMON**

at Bergamot Station
2525 Michigan Ave E3
Santa Monica, CA 90404
loislambertgallery.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jellyfish 1, thread, ink, acrylic on canvas,
23.5" x 20"



Brighton, thread, gouache, ink on
canvas, 20" x 24"



Something Between, thread, acrylic, ink
on canvas, 30" x 35"

Floating Strings

March 18, 2023 – May 13, 2023

Opening Reception Saturday, March 18, 6-9pm

SANTA MONICA, CA - Lois Lambert Gallery presents *Floating Strings*, the most recent exhibition of work by German artist Karen Simon.

Karen Simon works with a combination of acrylic, gouache, ink, and thread. She begins with a piece of unstretched canvas, painting washes of color that stain and bleed across the canvas in loose forms. Simon then brings out the details in each image with embroidered thread, often leaving long strings loose and floating across the canvas. Together, the intricate woven threads and delicately painted areas make up an image that emerges out of the fibers of the canvas.

Simon began as a costume and set designer, working in theatre while she continued to draw and paint on her own. Working with thread as a costume designer, Simon began experimenting sewing on different types of paper and eventually decided to add this to her paintings. Working intuitively, Simon explores the three-dimensionality of the thread woven overtop her paintings and imagines that she is "trying to find a way out," weaving in and out of the world and moving between the dark and the light. Each painting is meant to be viewed as an adventure into the scene depicted.

Inspired by the combination of dreamlike surrealism and reality, and the parallel between light and dark in Simon's work, German composer and musician Tobias Vethake wrote a specific musical composition for this body of work. In this piece, Vethake incorporates an electric cello with analog instruments, to create emotional soundscapes relating directly to Simon's paintings.

Karen Simon received a diploma in Set and Costume Design from the University of the Arts in Berlin, Germany in 1998 and received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the California Institute of the Arts in 1996. Her work in costume design earned her the award for Best Young Costume Designer from the Theater Heute in Germany. Her paintings have been exhibited in Germany, Italy, and Korea. *Floating Strings* at Lois Lambert Gallery is Karen Simon's first solo exhibition in the United States.