

GEARY
MILLERTON

SHORE LEAVE

MARTA LEE



BESTWISE (small linen still life), 2019, Acrylic on linen with thread (unstretched), 24" x 37"

**SEPTEMBER 2-
OCTOBER 31, 2020**

**FRIDAY-SUNDAY 10-6PM
& BY APPOINTMENT**

***PLEASE NOTE SOCIAL
DISTANCING LAWS AS SET BY NEW
YORK STATE ARE MANDATORY IN
THE GALLERY**

34 Main Street
Millerton, NY 12546
+1 518 592 1503
info@geary.nyc
geary.nyc

Geary is pleased to present its inaugural exhibition at its Millerton outpost, *Shore Leave*, by Brooklyn-based artist Marta Lee. Marta Lee's paintings range from conceptual and formal concerns to more intimate and personal narratives. She examines an elusive feeling of home by using objects and spaces that resonate undeniably: worn-out shoes and patterned tablecloths become vessels for memory and comfort. Lee also incorporates photographic matte-medium transfers into her paintings. These skin-like, nuanced multiples create irregular patterns that frame the image and contrast colorful, painted areas. While she is receptive to each painting's inner logic, she also utilizes rules, listening to particular songs on repeat or using written notes or diagrams instead of reference photographs. This convergence of abstraction and figuration invites a more fluid interpretation of contemporary domestic space, offering a glimpse of her labyrinthine storytelling.

Shore Leave is a borrowed title from Tom Waits' song on his 1983 album *Swordfishtrombone*, which spins a tale of a sailor taking his shore leave, both a break from the waves and chaos, and yet a lonely time estranged from his girlfriend and his home. Lee recognizes this album as the beginning of the musician's boundary-breaking career, and she shares in this feeling of experimentation and transitional energy. She thinks of the exhibition as ultimately hopeful: the shore serves as a beacon, a separation between land and sea, and while we have all been on our own shore leave from our previous lives in 2020 and Lee made much of this work during this period, the divide between steady and tumultuous has never felt more precarious, and more powerful.

Marta Lee (b. Moscow, ID) lives and works in Brooklyn, NY. She received her BFA from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an MFA from the University of Texas at Austin. Lee has participated in Vermont Studio Center (Johnson, VT), Fire Island Artist Residency (Cherry Grove, NY), a UT Exchange fellowship at the Royal College of Art Sculpture Programme (London, UK), an Artist-in-Residence Fellowship at Anderson Ranch Arts Center (Snowmass Village, CO), and most recently a Guest Residency at Hercules Art Studio Program (TriBeCa, NY). Marta Lee has exhibited nationally and internationally in Chicago, LA, Austin, New York (US), London (UK), and Guangdong (China). She also works collaboratively with Anika Steppe under the moniker Frances Brady. This is her first exhibition with the gallery.

Geary was founded in the Lower East Side in 2013 by Jack Geary and Dolly Bross Geary, and then moved to Varick Street in West Soho. Geary opened its doors on the Bowery in January 2020. The gallery represents emerging and mid-career artists working in a variety of media. Geary presents solo, two-person, and group exhibitions, and seeks to raise artist profiles and exposure through placement in museum collections and exhibitions, and through presentations at art fairs. Geary opened its Millerton outpost in Summer 2020.