

The Sag Harbor Express.

Bits & Banter: 'The Prompter in Rehearsal, Fantasy at Sara Nightingale, LongHouse Open for Families

By Michelle Trauring - May 8, 2019



"Last Night's Insomnia" by Suzanne Unrein.

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Unrein Slips Into Art and Fantasy at Sara Nightingale

Suzanne Unrein has been in the mouth of an alligator. She has hovered with a koala bear and has been pinned by a lion — peacefully inching toward the edge of violence.

She has traveled to Borneo seeking orangutans and, one time in Bali, a pair of macaque monkeys used her a jungle gym, peering into her eyes to remind her that they are connected. These encounters — some imagined, others inexplicably real — feel the same as when she is painting, she said.

"I'm hyper-alert, ecstatic, curious and wanting," the artist said in a statement. "Wanting to dive into the painting, connect with the animal, connect to my animal self. The experiences contribute to the paintings as if in a ritualistic dance. The intensified action heightens the color. The rhythm of the natural world moves the brush with aggressive, fleeting, methodical and fluid strokes."

Each encounter has contributed to her vibrant worlds, on view in "Slip," opening Saturday, May 11, during a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. at Sara Nightingale Gallery in Sag Harbor.

"The drawings for 'Slip' began at Unrein's art residency in Can Serrat, El Bruc, Barcelona, Spain, in August of 2018 and have continued with her return to New York City," a press release said. "In the drawings, Unrein moves away from the exuberant brushstrokes and vibrant color of the paintings. She calms down the motion and simplifies the palette to concentrate on the more psychological aspects of the work. Two large paintings inspired by the drawings will also be exhibited."

The show will remain on view through June 3. For more information, call (631) 793-2256 or visit saranightingale.com.